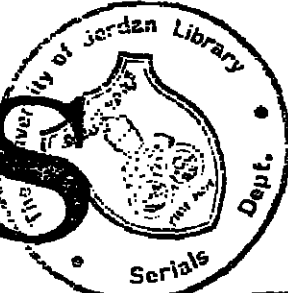


THE TIMES



Heath plane in near miss at airport

Mr Edward Heath was on board a Dan Air HS 748 airliner which was involved yesterday in a near miss with two Nato fighters (Our Transport Correspondent writes). According to one report, the Dutch F-16 jets were flying at 800ft across Yeaman airport, Leeds, just after Mr Heath's plane took off.

Diplomat faces secrets charge

Rhona Jane McIntyre Ritchie, aged 29, the recently appointed British Embassy in Tel Aviv, was charged with passing information under the Official Secrets Act when she appeared at Hordaferry Road Magistrates' Court, on Thursday. She was remanded on bail until April 27.

Prosser warders are cleared

Three prison officers accused of murdering Barry Prosser in a cell at Winton Green prison, Birmingham, in August, 1980, were acquitted at Leicester Crown Court after a 15-day trial. All three had pleaded not guilty.

Half-day strikes by teachers

Teachers in England and Wales are to hold a series of half-day strikes in protest against their employers' refusal of arbitration on their pay claim.

Opec cutback

Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in Vienna to set a production ceiling of 18 million barrels per day in a bid to hold crude prices to present levels.

Arabs strike

Tension among Arabs in the occupied West Bank mounted and many began a 72-hour protest strike against the latest clampdown by Israeli military authorities who banned three Arab newspapers.

US accused

Nicaragua has accused the United States of plotting to invade its territory and has asked the United Nations Security Council to meet urgently to consider "this grave situation".

Captain blamed

The captain of the coaster that ran aground off Cornwall last December, leading to the death of 16 people, contributed to his own death, the Penleev inquest jury decided.

Tax advice

Why pay more to the taxman than necessary? Family Money looks at ways of minimising your tax liability as the end of the tax year approaches.

Alan Badel dies

Alan Badel, the actor probably best known for his BBC television role as the Count of Monte Cristo, died suddenly yesterday from a heart attack aged 58.

Slump in Reagan popularity

President Reagan's popularity after 14 months in office has fallen below President Carter's after the same period, according to a New York Times CBS News poll. Most Americans disagree with the President's unyielding stance on taxes and defence spending.



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Leader page 7
Letters: On Europe, from Sir Henry Plumb, MEP; corporal punishment, from Mr D. Harris and others; satellite TV, from Lady Falkender.
Leading articles: religious education, French franc; London fares.
Obituary, page 8
Marshall V. I. Chuklov.
Features, page 6
Arnold Wesker joins this debate on the Hitler play; a likely king-maker at Hillhead; explorer heroes past and present; lunch with Andy Warhol.

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		Wills	8

Three-year ban on England rebel cricketers

By Our Sports Staff

The English cricketers playing in matches against a South African team, under the captaincy of Graham Gooch of Essex, have been banned from Test cricket for three years. This was announced at Lord's yesterday by Mr George Mann, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). He added that there had been a unanimous vote among the 21 members of the board, 17 representing the counties, two the minor counties and two the MCC.

In addition, those counties with players involved in South Africa have volunteered "out of deference to India and Pakistan" not to include them in teams chosen for matches against the touring sides this summer.

A report drawn up by the executive committee of the TCCB set out the reasons for this decision, which Mr Mann saw as a "tragedy in the case of players like Gooch". It is thought that any players appearing regularly for England in those three years might have expected to earn £50,000 in addition to their usual county income.

But there was no alternative. The players in South Africa could not have expected to play Test cricket this summer in any case because it had been made clear that both India and Pakistan, the visitors to England, would have cancelled the tour.

In the next six touring seasons, three at home and three away, all involved countries are strongly opposed to the link with South Africa, except perhaps for the Australians next winter. Therefore, the sequence of the World Cup and New Zealand at home in 1983, Pakistan and New Zealand away, West Indies at home in 1984, and India away.

The TCCB calculated that the cost of this country if the series against India and Pakistan were cancelled, would be about £2m. Neither India nor Pakistan had openly declared

Smell of success in Jenkins camp

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Glasgow

Mr Roy Jenkins, Social Democrat/Alliance candidate in the Glasgow Hillhead, election, believes that house-to-house visits by his party workers in recent weeks have recorded considerable evidence that previously undecided voters are ready to support him.

Although some Alliance canvassers are inexperienced, there is supporting evidence for Mr Jenkins from workers for other parties. Each candidate yesterday was making guarded claims in public, but confidence among the SDP and Liberal teams was higher than in rival camps.

It was boosted on Thursday night when 600 people attended a meeting at school hall to hear Dr David Owen, Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr William Rodgers and Mr Jenkins speak. Another 400 people sat or stood outside for more than two hours while the four SDP leaders came out in turn to speak and answer questions.

Mr Edward Heath, for the Conservatives, attracted 800 people and a large number of Labour, 300 to simultaneous meetings, from an electorate of 40,000. There is a high level of interest in political argument in Glasgow and the questioning mainly on economic management but frequently on defence and devolution, was invariably shrewd.

With four relatively strong candidates small shifts of support in the final days could be decisive. The figure whose

Pressure on franc eases

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 19

On the eve of the weekend truce, when the exchanges are closed, the pressure against the franc which has been building up to a dangerous pitch in the last few days, eased a little, thanks to the combined efforts of the Bank of France and of the German, Dutch and Swiss central banks.

The dollar was selling at 6.226 francs against 6.243 francs when business opened this morning and the Deutsche Mark at 2.6139 francs against 2.616 francs.

It remains to be seen whether this improvement persists when dealings are resumed on Monday. It was due mainly to the conviction of international investors that because the second ballot of the local elections takes place on Sunday, any devaluation over the weekend is ruled out. If the left-wing majority does badly at the polls, as the indications are at present, this



Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington welcoming Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and his wife Hannelore at RAF Benson, near Oxford, yesterday (Page 5).

Mugging victims 10pc Asian

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

A high proportion of the victims of mugging, robbery and violent theft in London originate in the Indian subcontinent, according to statistics released to The Times by Scotland Yard.

The Metropolitan Police said yesterday that of the 18,763 such offences committed last year, 822 per cent of the victims were European, 10.8 per cent of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi extraction, 3.6 per cent of African or West Indian origin and 3.4 per cent others, such as Arab or Chinese.

Although there are no conclusive figures, a 1977 survey of housing, carried out by the Department of the Environment, estimated that 85.9 per cent of the population of Greater London was European, compared with 5 per cent African or West Indian by origin, 5 per cent others, and only 4.1 per cent of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi extraction.

The tally of victims revealed to The Times on the authority of Mr Gilbert Kelland, Assistant Commissioner, "crimes show the other side of a controversial London press conference last week."

He said then that the Yard was concerned that there had been a 34 per cent increase in offences of robbery and violent theft in London last year, bringing the total to 18,763 cases. Particular criticism followed the disclosure that 55 per cent of assaults had been identified as of "coloured appearance".

A specific inquiry by The Times on victims was considered by Scotland Yard for two days while the figures were collated. They were then released, along with a refusal to answer any questions on them.

Unlike last week's figures for ethnic appearance of assault victims, origins for public order offences were not given by Mr Kelland to be appropriate. The Yard also refused to release information on the "racial spread" of assaults.

The Home Office was informed before Scotland Yard released the victim figures. They were given in seven categories: White-skinned European, 14,557 offences, 77.6 per cent; dark-skinned European, 1,457 per cent; black-skinned or West Indian, 678 (3.6 per cent); Indo-Pakistani or Bangladeshi, 2,021 (10.8 per cent); Chinese or Japanese, 167 (0.9 per cent); Arab, 129 (0.7 per cent); not known, 353, (1.9 per cent).

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Employment Secretary, said the figures showed the country is now seeing the benefit of more reasonable pay increase and fast productivity growth.

The highest contributor to the drop in inflation in February was the falling petrol price, and the withdrawal of supplementary rate demands in London and the West Midlands.

Some benefit will be lost from dearer fares on London Transport this weekend and petrol prices which went up because of the Budget. However, because the Chancellor put up taxes on petrol, drink and tobacco by less than in 1981, the annual inflation rate may drop again in March.

The Treasury's forecast that inflation would be running at 9 per cent in the final quarter of this year looks slightly pessimistic. Productivity went up very sharply in industry last year, so that wage costs in Britain only rose 21 per cent between December, 1980 and December, 1981. Table, page 15

Leading article, page 7
Business News, page 15

Anderton censured by his own police authority

From John Chartres, Manchester

ficially to his own police authority.

Interviewed after the meeting of the Police Act, 1964, his committee could only take steps to have a chief constable removed if it seemed he was not running his force properly, and such steps could only be taken in conjunction with the Home Secretary.

Mr Kelly added: "Some of us do think Mr Anderton would be better employed getting on with the job of running his police force instead of making speeches and statements to the press." He said that legal advice would probably also be sought to see whether Mr Anderton's earlier remarks were defamatory.

Mr Kelly and his deputy chairman, Mrs Gabriel Cox, who had earlier been involved in sharp personal exchanges with Mr Anderton, indicated that the committee would have to discuss the next steps, possibly including a reference to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home

Secretary, if Mr Anderton did not comply with the demand for a clarification of his remarks.

The meeting, attended by 28 of the 30 members of the committee, was called primarily to discuss the deployment of up to 300 police officers at a cost of more than £100,000 to guard the strike-bound Laurence Scott factory when the management was proposing to remove machinery and when, according to Mr Anderton, there was a strong possibility of public disorder.

The first snub for the chief constable came when a resolution proposed by Mr Kelly stating that his deployment represented "overreaction" was carried by 16 votes to 11.

Mr Anderton was involved in direct confrontations with Mrs Cox, who has been one of his most outspoken critics since Labour took control of Greater Manchester Council last May and two months before the Moss Side riots, and 20 per cent will no longer take place. An increase of 300,000 vehicle-miles a day by bus and taxi (3 per cent) is forecast.

The sole bright spot is that services will not be cut as planned this weekend because the unions have refused to countenance the resultant loss of earnings.

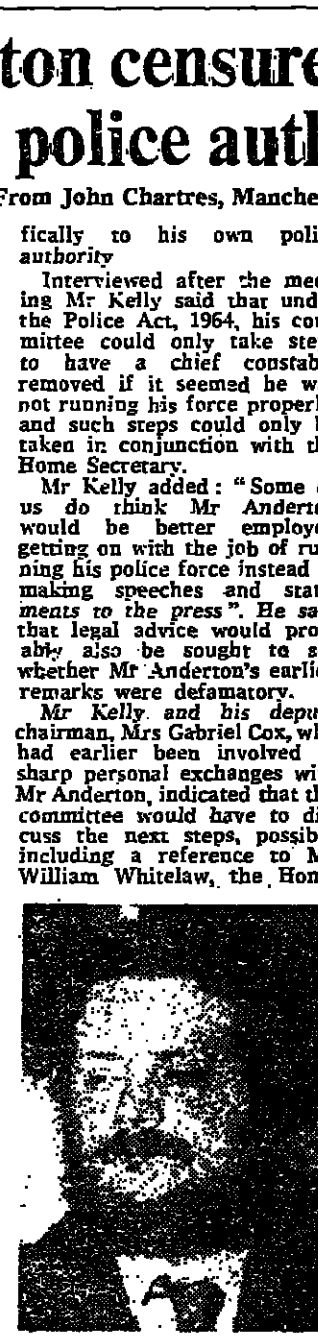
In Underground services have been postponed for a month. Cuts in bus services, which will result in marginally longer waiting times, are expected in two stages, in April and July.

London Transport estimates that there will be an 18 per cent loss of traffic this year. By 1984, on figures from LT's outline budget, up to 1,200 million passenger miles, almost a quarter of the total, could be lost.

Despite plans to reduce jobs by perhaps 5,000 by 1984, the figures suggest that productivity will still decline to its lowest level, perhaps 73,000 passenger miles per employee, 16 per cent lower than last year, and under 100,000, the 170,000 achieved by the transport system in Paris.

Although various measures can be used to assess productivity—and some of those LT shows improvement—on passenger miles for each employee, LT's performance has been declining for more than a decade.

In the early 1970s LT handled about 21,100 million passenger journeys a year, while Paris managed about 1,600 million. A decade later their positions were almost reversed. London's passenger journeys had fallen to 1,750 million, while Paris was carrying 2,050 million.



Mr Kelly: Seeking legal advice.

Inflation standstill last month

By David Blake Economics Editor

Prices stood still in February, the first month in 12 years that the Retail Price Index has shown no increase at all. The index, the most generally accepted measure of inflation, stood at 310.7, showing that prices had risen by 11 per cent over the previous year.

In January, the annual rate of increase had been 12 per cent, and the good figures announced yesterday have raised hopes that inflation could be down to single figures by the spring.

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Churches want controls on test-tube births

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

The Church of England and Britain's nonconformist churches have given their approval to fertilisation outside the womb, providing the egg and sperm come from the couple concerned, but want greater control over artificial insemination by donor (AID).

They have added their voice to the demands for a public inquiry into the ethical implications of test-tube babies and the increased use of AID.

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, Mr Ian Kennedy, former Reith Lecturer and Reader in Law at King's College London, and other senior academics called last month for an expanded debate on the issues.

The British Medical Association has set up its own working party but the churches want a wider inquiry.

In a report to be published tomorrow the Free Church Federal Council and the British Council of Churches deliver their most comprehensive statement on the issues surrounding human reproduction for 20 years.

The churches condemn "surrogate motherhood", the process by which a woman conceives and bears a child for another childless couple, and say it should be legally banned. They predict that it could lead to baby sales, which should also be illegal, they say.

The report, produced by a 15-man working party, chaired by the Very Rev Peter Bael, Dean of Durham, says a decision to remain childless can be a valid choice within a Christian marriage. Equally it is acceptable for infertile couples who want children to seek medical help. But not all

Another fare rise likely for London

By Nicholas Timmins and Michael Bailly

Londoners face a possible 25 per cent fare rise for the autumn, on top of tomorrow's record increase of 100 per cent. That is what would be needed to meet the extra £40m cost if London Transport workers win their fight for a 12 per cent wage rise in place of the 5 per cent budgeted for by LT. There is no chance of the extra cost being met by additional help from either the Government or the Greater London Council, and it would therefore have to come from fares to keep LT within the law.

After six months of the cheap fares introduced by the Labour-controlled Greater London Council—and subsequently declared illegal by the Law Lords, London commuters face a gloomy day on Monday with fares rising to about a third higher than the levels of last autumn.

Worst hit will be commuters living in inner suburbs such as Kensington and working in the City, whose two-zone Underground fare goes up 130 per cent from 30p to 70p. Zonal bus fares will double, from 10p to 20p; minimums from 30p to 60p for two zones; and from 40p to 80p for three zones.

The price of bus passes will be doubled, as will the flat fare for children, from 5p to 10p. Underground fares generally will rise by an average of 94 per cent.

The prospect was yesterday described by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, as ugly and deplorable.

Mr Howell said that Londoners should not blame the Government, as a current series of GLC advertisements invited commuters to "blame the fiasco" of GLC policies. He had asked the GLC to prepare positive plans to improve LT and if they failed the Government would have to impose other solutions.

London Transport estimate that as a direct result of this weekend's fare rises, bus travel will decline by 190,000,000 journeys a year (5 per cent) and Underground by 55,000,000 (10 per cent).

Bus service cuts in two stages

About 20 per cent of these lost journeys will be made by car or motorcycle, 40 per cent on foot or bicycle, the 40 per cent on public transport, each by British Rail at 10p, and 20 per cent will no longer take place. An increase of 300,000 vehicle-miles a day by bus and taxi (3 per cent) is forecast.

The sole bright spot is that services will not be cut as planned this weekend because the unions have refused to countenance the resultant loss of earnings.

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Simple zonal fare structures

The Paris achievement lay essentially in an investment programme of £1,800m, in a period when LT's capital spending the £550m. Subsidies produced cheaper fares, while London charged more for a deteriorating service. More importantly, Paris produced simple zonal fare structures, tickets that could be used on the Metro and buses, far less cash collection of fares, and the widespread use of one-man operation, with a pruning of platform staff on the Metro.

Paris runs its system on 40,000 staff, against LT's 60,000, London needing half as many staff again to carry 15 per cent fewer passengers, a position briefly improved by the GLC's Fare's Fair scheme, with its resulting increase in travel.

This comparison is less than fair, because the Metro plays a bigger role in transport in Paris than the Underground in London, and trains carry many more passengers per crew than buses. In addition, some of Paris's gain will shortly be off.

Continued on back page, col 7

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March 19, 1982
Nature-Times News Service

Captain was at fault, Penlee jury decides

Henry Moreton, captain of the Union Star, the coaster that ran aground in a storm off the Cornish coast, leading to the deaths of 16 people, contributed to his own death, the Penlee jury decided yesterday.

The jury of eight men, sitting at Funchance, returned a verdict of manslaughter against Captain Moreton, aged 33, and verdicts of accidental death on 15 others, Mr Moreton's wife Dawn, his two teenage daughters, his four crewmen and the eight Penlee lifeboatmen who lost their lives going to the help of the stricken coaster on the night of December 19 last near Land's End.

The jury said death was due to the multiple injuries or drowning in the case of those lost in the lifeboat, or drowning for those lost in the coaster. One crewman from the Union Star had been found still wearing a lifebelt.

The verdicts came after the inquest had heard that Captain Moreton, taking the Union Star on a maiden voyage to Ireland, had refueled a tow for more than an hour when his engines had broken down, saying he was in no great difficulty.

He had not lowered the mast of the coaster, hampering rescue attempts by a hovering Royal Navy rescue helicopter. According to evidence shown to the jury, the Union Star had shown "no sense of urgency" as the crew of the lifeboat made repeated runs alongside in the mountains seas close to the cliffs and beckoned them to leave the wheelhouse. One lifeboat did force a jump in to the lifeboat.

Evidence from the captain of a salvage tug also showed that at no time during the emergency did Captain Moreton put out a Mayday call over a period of more than two hours, in which time the ship drifted closer to the rocks and 60 ft high breakers.

New evidence heard at the inquest yesterday suggested that the Penlee lifeboat, the Brownie, having plucked four people from the Union Star shortly before it overturned, was trying to get home, possibly damaged, and was seen making slow progress dangerously close to rocks near Tater Du, near Land's End. Lifeboat paint marks were later found on those rocks.

Mr Derrick Pepperell, the West Cornwall coroner, told the jury that a manslaughter verdict was appropriate when perhaps a person brought consequences on himself unnecessarily.

Bearing in mind that the coaster had been in communication with the coastguard right through the emergency, the jury might consider, he said, that it was possible that the coaster may have been, and he was not saying there was any, fall far short of gross negligence or a wicked and reckless disregard for the safety of others, which would constitute unlawful killing.

The inquest heard that one of the 16 bodies that were recovered, those of four lifeboatmen, including the coxswain Mr Trevelyan, and those of two of the crew, were recovered by the Solomon Browne before it was wrecked.

Yesterday Mr Michael Buttery, a fisherman from Mousehole, the home of the Penlee crew, told the inquest that an auxiliary coastguard he had been with a cliff rescue party which made its way towards the spot where the 1,400-ton coaster was going aground.

He said he had heard on the radio-telephone the lifeboat report that it had taken four survivors and was heading for home. On Thursday Captain Johan Burman, the master of the salvage tug, Noorde Holland, said that he thought the lifeboat had been making a desperate run for shelter when it was lost.

Mr Buttery said he had seen the lights of the Solomon Browne off the Tater Du rocks a distance from the wrecked coaster, later estimated at 600 yards. He said: "I remember saying to one of my crew 'Bloody hell, what is the lifeboat doing in that close?' It was very close, really close."

Mr Buttery said he thought the Solomon Browne's steering gear must have been damaged, and it was hardly making any progress. Suddenly the lifeboat had swung right round and was heading straight into the shore, only 30 to 40 yards away.

He told the inquest: "Then the lifeboat's lights suddenly disappeared and two or three minutes after that we had this strong smell of diesel."

Mr John Chadwick, the south-west district surveyor for the RNLI, said the lifeboat could have been damaged when it took four people off the coaster without the coxswain realizing it. The inquest had heard that on one occasion a large wave had carried the Solomon Browne right on to the deck of the Union Star and off again.

After the inquest Mr Frank Wallis, whose son Gary died in the lifeboat, said that the recently announced public inquiry into the tragedy was necessary to answer many questions, especially why the Union Star's mast had not been lowered to help the helicopter and why the crew and passengers had not come out of the wheelhouse when the lifeboat arrived.



Prisoners help the blind

Life-sentence prisoners at (left) who are partially sighted, and Brian Stalley (right) who is blind, have been transcribing the Bible and the Koran, have been transcribed. The prisoners in the blind unit take a £1 cut in pay because jobs there are classed as non-industrial.

Letter from Colonsay

Under the sea comes the spice of island life

From Jonathan Wills, Colonsay

"I'll only be a force eight" said the purser reassuringly as the Glen Sannox buffeted her way southwards through uncountable megawatts of wasted Atlantic wave power. The Colonsay ferry left Oban far behind and conditions got far worse. After a three-hour drive through the steeling dawn from Edinburgh, the inner Rutherford, the shopkeeper, man was in need of sustenance. The tea bar of the good ship Glen Sannox is a fleeting, hesitant affair and in a mad March gale you have to be quick to catch it. As we slammed through the tide race in the Firth of Lorne those ham rolls somehow did not seem quite as appetizing after all.

Thirty-seven miles later the bare geological bones of the Colonsay coast flashed briefly to starboard in a burst of sunlight, only to vanish as another squall ripped the sea state well up the Beaufort Scale.

The pier at Scalasaigh had conered a patch of sunlight as the ferry strained at her wharves in the swell and discharged her Colonsay cargo. Not much of it, explained Mr Kevin Byrne, the genial orange-bearded host at the only hotel on the island. "Light ship, that's why you had a rough passage. Still, it's twice as far as crossing the English Channel but only half the price."

In the public bar the ranks of the regulars have been thinned by funerals and emigration but the survivors are talking about the best time that Colonsay has had for a very long time. "The Hydro" is coming. In this part of Scotland that means mains electricity, not mains water ("That's the next thing on the shopping list", Mr Byrne explained).

After years of discussion and petitions, the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board has said that it will lay a submarine power cable next year from Islay, 13 miles to the south-west.

Everyone agrees that the hydro will revolutionize life on this idyllic but sometimes inconvenient island. The farmers and crofters will get the mains into their byres, workshops and hay drying barns; light industry will become a possibility; and a big development at the hotel (excluding Muzak, we are glad to learn) will make the place bigger, warmer and better equipped.

"We shall get central heating and a laundry," Mr Byrne said. "At present we have to send the laundry over 100 miles to Glasgow, via Oban. It is an expensive business and it also means we are exporting a job from Colonsay."

While waiting for the "hydro" the islanders have not been sitting back and doing nothing. Five years ago a group of public-spirited people, led by Mr Keith Rutherford, the shopkeeper, and Dr Hall Gardner, the GP, set up the Colonsay Community Electricity Association Limited, to do something about the superannuated diesel generator on the island.

In those days you had to ring up your neighbour to see if she was using her electric fire before you dared switch on your "Jenny" machine. The new "Jenny" is more reliable, even if the electric lights are on the dim side, but it produces power at 28p a unit. The Highlands and Islands Development Board came in with a subsidy to keep down the charges to the mainland levels, pending a survey for a cable route to the mainland.

Now the experts have concluded that a power cable can not only be laid to Colonsay through the fierce tide races of the west coast but is equally important, it can be maintained.

"Yes, Colonsay is now joining Scotland", Mr Byrne says. "There's even a spice rack in the local shop and we have just got a new central storage tank, too."

Paying the £400 and odd installation charge for the mains should not be too much of a blow at Colonsay. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal's pleasant pink and white mansion, set in a fertile Kew Gardens in the fertile Kiloran Valley. But for some of the older folk in the crofts the money could be a difficulty, as could the guarantees demanded by the hydro board that consumers use at least £200 of power a year.

In 1841 there were nearly 1,000 people on Colonsay. Last year there were 134 and now there are just 121 on the island. The "hydro" could reverse that decline, as happened elsewhere on the fringes of Scotland in the past 34 years.

Colonsay, with North Ronaldsay in Orkney and Out Skerries in Shetland, which are also getting mains next year, is another example of the wisdom of the men who founded the board.

'The bravest men I have ever seen'

From a Staff Reporter

Relatives of the dead Penlee lifeboatmen had tears in their eyes at yesterday's inquest as they listened to a letter read out from Lieutenant Commander Russell Smith, the US Navy, who piloted the Sea King helicopter rescue 80 from the Royal Navy station at Culdroe, which repeatedly tried to lift off the crew and passengers of the Union Star.

"Throughout the entire rescue, the Penlee crew never appeared to hesitate," he said.

After each time they were blown off by the wind, the Union Star crew would return to the scene and try again. Their spirit and dedication was amazing considering the hostile weather and the constant possibility of being hit by the rescue helicopter.

The jury asked that their appreciation should be expressed to the coastguard who pressed the search down a cliff to see if there were survivors on the Union Star and to a police sergeant who waded into the sea to recover a body.

He said he had heard on the radio-telephone the lifeboat report that it had taken four survivors and was heading for home. On Thursday Captain Johan Burman, the master of the salvage tug, Noorde Holland, said that he thought the lifeboat had been making a desperate run for shelter when it was lost.

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Mr Buttery said he thought the Solomon Browne's steering gear must have been damaged, and it was hardly making any progress. Suddenly the lifeboat had swung right round and was heading straight into the shore, only 30 to 40 yards away.

He told the inquest: "Then the lifeboat's lights suddenly disappeared and two or three minutes after that we had this strong smell of diesel."

Mr John Chadwick, the south-west district surveyor for the RNLI, said the lifeboat could have been damaged when it took four people off the coaster without the coxswain realizing it. The inquest had heard that on one occasion a large wave had carried the Solomon Browne right on to the deck of the Union Star and off again.

After the inquest Mr Frank Wallis, whose son Gary died in the lifeboat, said that the recently announced public inquiry into the tragedy was necessary to answer many questions, especially why the Union Star's mast had not been lowered to help the helicopter and why the crew and passengers had not come out of the wheelhouse when the lifeboat arrived.

Civil Service sex inequality 'rife'

By Frances Gibb

Sexual inequality in the Civil Service is rife, with most women concentrated in low-grade and low-paid jobs, the Society of Civil and Public Servants says.

The society, which represents 100,000 middle-grade civil and public servants, says in a booklet published today that Government figures show that women make up 99 per cent of the secretarial group and almost 80 per cent of the lowest clerical grade.

But their numbers drop dramatically as the status of the grade increases, and there are no women at the level of permanent secretary, it says. Only four (2.6 per cent) hold posts at deputy secretary level; 27 (4.7 per cent) at under-secretary level and 62 (5.6 per cent) at assistant secretary level.

By contrast, there are 41 male permanent secretaries; 147 male deputy secretaries; 578 male under-secretaries and 1,042 male assistant secretaries, the booklet says.

In the secretarial grades, there are 20,910 women typists, compared with 114 men, and 4,527 women personal secretaries, compared with 39 men. The society calls for a "fundamental reassessment of Civil Service policies and procedures" to eliminate the sex segregation, which it says results from a history of discriminatory practices.

The equal pay and sex discrimination Acts have helped to remove the most overt forms of discrimination and opened job opportunities to women, it says. But they have not had much success in achieving equal pay and opportunities in the wider sense.

"Many women are still underpaid in relation to the men they work with and in relation to their level of skill and effort. Furthermore, most women are still concentrated in low-grade, low-paid women's jobs with few career prospects."

Equality - the Next Step: The Changing Role of Women in the Civil Service (Society of Civil and Public Servants, 124/130 Southwark Street, London, SE1).

Rape claim decision deferred

From a Staff Reporter

The hearing was completed in the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday of the action by "Mrs X", a Glaswegian woman, who seeks to bring a private prosecution against three teenagers who allegedly raped and assaulted her.

Similar charges were dropped by the public prosecutor, the Lord Advocate, in September last after a medical report said that the alleged victim was unfit to testify at that time.

Lord Emslie, the Lord Justice General, sitting with Lord Cameron and Lord Auld, said yesterday that they would take time to consider their decision on "this most unusual application". A written judgment is expected within the next fortnight.

On the fourth day of the hearing Mr Charles Kemp Davidson, QC, Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, continued his answers on behalf of "Mrs X" to the arguments of the defence. He admitted that the case had acquired a "degree of notoriety" and that some of the media coverage had been "very strong".

But he contended that a trial would be possible for a jury, if carefully directed by the trial judge, to hear the case.

Lord Emslie said that the difficulty would be to get through to the jury that they would require a sense of duty "beyond what is required of a Scottish jury". The jurors would have to clear their minds of preconceptions.

Mr Kemp Davidson said that if a trial went ahead next May, as seemed possible, then it would take place more than three months after the publication in a Scottish newspaper of an alleged confession by one of the youths. By that time the intense media coverage of January would have become a blur in the minds of potential jurors.

Mr Kemp Davidson argued that the media has preserved the anonymity of those concerned in the case. The concern of journalists had not been that the three alleged assailants were going free but that they were not going to be put on trial.

In the public interest there should be a trial despite the allegation of prejudice by publicity.

It was a fundamental principle of a civilized society, said Mr Kemp Davidson, that if crimes had been committed they should be tried by the law of the land, not by press, television and radio.

Call for clamps to ease parking chaos

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

The Greater London Council and London Transport yesterday supported the police demand to be allowed to use "wheel clamps" to immobilize illegally parked vehicles. The council argued that a seminar on clamps that illegal parking was so widespread in central London that new and more effective means of enforcement were needed.

Mr Paul Moore, vice-chairman of the council's transport committee, quoted GLC estimates that five vehicles out of six were parked illegally in the street, and that one in 50 received a parking ticket and one in 100 paid a fine.

The lack of enforcement was partly due to the shortage of 1,300 wardens. There were 1,300 wardens in London compared with the 4,000 needed to do the job properly, he said.

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in November that he wanted the views of the public and interested bodies before deciding whether to legalize clamps. If he does, they will probably be introduced as an experiment in the most congested areas of central London.

A wheel clamp can be fitted to a car in less than two minutes. A driver finding one of his cars would have to pay a fee, probably about £25, at the local police station to have the vehicle released.

Supporters of clamps argue that the inconvenience caused is an effective deterrent to illegal parking. The system is widely used in the United States and France.

Dr David Quarumby, managing director of London Transport buses, who favours clamps, said some buses were having to be permanently diverted because of illegal parking. They were losing up to 15 per cent scheduled mileage.

For the Automobile Association, however, Mr Ronald Sharrood said clamps would only prolong the original offence and do little to improve the situation. He wanted enforcement to be made more efficient. If clamps were allowed, he said they should be applied only to persistent offenders, where, for instance, police records showed three unpaid parking tickets for a vehicle.

Nurse 'died from blow to head'

Mr Ronald Smith said yesterday he knew what caused the death of his daughter, a nurse, in Saudi Arabia. She was said to have fallen to her death at a party given by a British surgeon.

He made his claim after being sent a missing page of an autopsy report made in Saudi Arabia. It was forwarded by the Foreign Office to Mr Smith, aged 56, a former police officer, nearly three years after it was written.

Mr Smith was sent the report a year ago. He has consistently claimed it was not complete. The Foreign Office said yesterday it had not noticed at first that the report was incomplete, as the pages were numbered in Arabic and the text read plausibly from page one to page three.

Mr Smith said the missing page "clearly shows Helen died as a result of a brain haemorrhage caused by a blow to the left side of her head. The word 'accident' is in it suggesting an accident."

But Professor Keith Simpson, the senior Home Office pathologist, said: "My view is that this addition does not alter much and should be looked at critically."

The hearing in the High Court on Thursday is to decide whether a Leeds coroner was justified in refusing to hold an inquest into the death of Miss Smith, aged 23, as it happened abroad.



Don't miss the first stage of our gastronomic "Tour de France"

Last week's new-look Sunday Times Magazine left the others standing. Tomorrow, it continues to set the pace... with a fascinating superbly-illustrated series of articles on India. From ancient relics to their latest screen goddesses.

And with the first part of "The Taste of France," a major new cookery series, in LOOK - our new-style magazine within a magazine.

Part One deals with the traditional fare of Normandy and Brittany. It should have you reaching for your garlic-crusher within seconds.

Incidentally, we do expect a pretty heavy demand tomorrow morning. So if you haven't already ordered a copy, we suggest you get on your bike.

If you'll pardon the expression.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The new-look Sunday Times Magazine...with the new 'Look' magazine inside.

LITTLE JOHN REMANDED

Northamptonshire Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded a 40-year-old man, James Littlejohn, on remand in the name of the Crown. He was charged with the murder of a woman, who was found dead in a car in a car park in a residential area in Northampton. The man was charged with the murder of the woman, who was found dead in a car in a car park in a residential area in Northampton. The man was charged with the murder of the woman, who was found dead in a car in a car park in a residential area in Northampton.

End of the line is in sight

Normal trains are too wide for this tunnel and six others on the Tunbridge Wells to Hastings section of the line from Charing Cross, London, so local rolling stock 8ft wide instead of the standard 9ft 6in has to be used. Because of the Victorian builders' cheating by lining the tunnels with too few layers of bricks the London and South Eastern Railway found it cheaper after a collapse in 1852, to replace the structure from the inside. However, the diesel units which replaced steam in 1957 need renewal, and BR says the economies forced on it by the Aslef strike may prevent electrification of the line and thus deal a final blow.

Tension mounts on West Bank as Arabs strike

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah, March 19

As large sections of the West Bank's 700,000 Palestinians began a 72-hour protest strike today the Israeli military authorities reinforced their latest clampdown by banning the distribution of all three local Arabic newspapers in the occupied region.

The main visible effects of the strike were initially restricted to the two main Christian towns of Ramallah and Bethlehem. In the rest of the West Bank Friday is traditionally treated as a Muslim holiday when most business premises remain closed.

The ban came as tension among the Arabs was rising after yesterday's unprecedented Israeli decision to disband the entire elected Arab council of El-Bireh and replace it by a committee of Israeli military officers who will administer all local affairs.

Israeli troop reinforcements have been drafted into the area in anticipation of violent protests against the move, which is regarded as the beginning of a drive to displace a number of the most radical Palestinian municipalities. Both Israeli and Arab critics have described the take over of El-Bireh town hall as a further step towards Israeli annexation of what the Government calls "Judea and Samaria".

The conditions of the copies of *Al Fajr*, *Al Sha'ab* and *El Kuds* (as well as the weekly, English language edition of *Al Fajr*) took place as the papers were being driven from their printing works in east Jerusalem for sale in West Bank. The papers were still available in the Arab sector of Jerusalem.

Israeli military sources claimed that the editions had been seized because they breached strict military censorship regulations. This charge was flatly denied by Arab journalists involved in their production. The Israelis also said that they contained "inflammatory" material.

There were allegations by Palestinian leaders that the move was a deliberate attempt to restrict coverage of the widespread protests caused in the West Bank by the dissolution of El-Bireh council. All three papers have been strongly critical of the new Israeli civilian administration.

One senior *Al Fajr* journalist told me that the paper had written proof that all material in this morning's edition had been approved by the Israeli censor in the normal way. He denied that any attempt had been made to by-pass censorship in reporting on the El-Bireh affair.

The move against the press came only two days after Mr Abba Eban, the opposition Labour spokesman on

Gandhi hopes high for better ties with Britain

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, March 19

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, reflected today on the difficult relationship between India and the United States and said she wished it were better. She said, too, that there was no question of any lessening in India's friendship with Russia.

We are trying to have a better relationship with the United States. They have made a global strategy and I do not know what part India plays in that, if any.

"It is up to them. We are not doing anything unfriendly. A lot in the world depends on the attitude of the United States and I would be glad if the relation-

ship were warmer and better." Mrs Gandhi said friendship with the Soviet Union was valuable and India wanted to retain it. "They have stood by us and helped, especially in development, when no one else wanted to."

"There is no question of lessening friendship with the Soviet Union. We have not allowed them (the Russians) to influence our judgment, actions or policies."

Mrs Gandhi, who is visiting Britain from Sunday in connection with the festival of India, was talking to me in her room in the Parliament building in Delhi. She said she hoped her visit and talks with Mrs Thatcher would

help to create "a more normal and better relationship" with Britain. Some of the past had been unhappy, but "that is history and we are trying to give contemporary relevance to our relationship. An important part of this is economic cooperation."

She hoped that the exhibitions showing Indian culture, science "and what we are trying to do in our country today" would help to make India better understood.

"India is not a country you can easily ignore. Most people like or dislike it intensely. Its complexities baffle them." She said that the impressions many people had of

India were drawn from the press, and that visitors from abroad found the Indian reality quite different from the impressions they had gained from newspapers.

The role of the press came up again when she talked of her image. "I am not dismayed by my image in the foreign press. It is so utterly incorrect it misleads, but it doesn't affect us (in India). We are doing what is right."

When she agreed she got on well with Mrs Thatcher, she added with a broad smile: "I get on well with most people, strange as that may seem. I understand Reagan in Cancun on a personal basis."

Kenya bans play by left-wing novelist

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, March 19

Kenya's leading novelist, Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, is protesting strongly here about the refusal of the Kenyan authorities to approve a performance of his latest play, *Maitu Njiriga* (Mother tell it to me), which contrasts the cruelties and discriminations of pre-independent Kenya with present-day problems of the country's peasants.

Ngugi wrote the play in his native Kikuyu language, and it was to have been performed by a rural theatre cooperative, the Kamirithu group, from the Limuru area, near Nairobi. But the group's plan to present it at the National Theatre in Nairobi failed when the application for a permit brought no response, although they never received a formal rejection.

The issue has aroused great interest here. Ngugi is the author of several novels, including *Petals of Blood*, *Weep not Child* and *The River Between*. He was an associate Professor of Literature at Nairobi University until he was detained in 1977. No reason was given for his detention, and he was released on the orders of President Daniel arap Moi after the death of President Kenyatta in 1978. He then applied for reinstatement at the university, but was unsuccessful.

The new play appears to have angered officials, probably because it is regarded as too left-wing in its ideas. Ngugi is a socialist, has visited the Soviet Union, and has made no secret of his dislike of Kenya's capitalist policies, which, he says, have resulted in the exploitation of the peasants.

The play also appears to some of its critics to be seditious — in the sense that it is likely to cause hatred between Africans and whites by exaggerating the alleged indignities of a forced labour system 50 years ago, and by portraying Africans as being raped and crucified in their struggle for freedom.

The play is to a large extent allegorical, and would be unlikely to offend a sophisticated audience, but the authorities seem to fear its impact on the unsophisticated.

However, the official opposition has now gone further than banning one play, and the local chief has ordered the Kamirithu group to disband. Local police have dismantled the group's theatre, an open-air affair with simple seats for several hundred spectators, surrounded by a bamboo fence.

The group had been invited to travel to Zimbabwe to present the play there, but they are unlikely to be issued with passports. The Minister for Culture has indicated that letters seeking approval for the Zimbabwe trip, Ngugi says.

UNWANTED NAZI LOOT PILES UP

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn, March 19

The decision by the United States to return Nazi-era art works seized by American troops after the last war has left the Government with the problem of what to do with thousands of paintings no one really wants.

We did not ask for them back, a government official said. The Government had simply accepted them after Congress passed a law permitting their return.

It is now exploring cheap ways of shipping them back to Germany. Officials will, they have to try to trace their original owners. Those which belonged to the State and those which remain unclaimed are expected to join countless other Nazi-era works in museum cellars and archives, looked at only by scholars and historians.

Unrest in Ghana Rawlings foils coup plot in Army

From Godfrey Morrison, Abidjan, March 19

Reliable reports reaching here of an abortive coup plot against Ghana's 11-week-old military Government confirm other indications that the regime's hold on power remains fragile. Its success in dealing with the country's economic plight has been meagre.

Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seized power in a New Year's eve coup, overthrowing the civilian Government of President Hilla Limann, since when the ruling Provisional National Defence Council has been waging a "holy war" against the country's endemic corruption, and has been trying to restore some kind of order to its chaotic finances.

One of the main threats to the defence council has been a lack of cohesion in the armed forces, of whom its power ultimately rests. It is therefore particularly ominous that the recent coup plot should have been discovered in the armed forces.

A reliable source told *The Times* that the plot was discovered in Accra on March 4, when an Army captain was seen taking part in a rehearsal for a concert to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of independence, due to be held two days later, and the Ghanaian security authorities, mindful of how President Sedat of Egypt was assassinated during a military parade, took him in for questioning. Under interrogation the officer apparently confessed, implicating four other officers and eight other soldiers, the source said.

When the parade was held it was noted that Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings was not in his usual flamboyant self. Instead of arriving at the parade in full view of the public, standing on top of an armoured car, as is his wont, he was in the back of the vehicle and only emerged, surrounded by heavily armed bodyguards, to arrive at the parade ground.

Qualified observers noted that he appeared to be wearing a flak jacket under his tunic and that throughout the ceremony he was surrounded by moving bodyguards which would have made it very difficult for any sniper to get a sight on him. Heavily armed guards stood

around him, and the parade was held in a state of high alert.

Attorneys representing the Haitian community in Florida are alleging that detention of the refugees is illegal and discriminatory, and initial proceedings have begun in the federal district court in Miami to try to secure their release. The case centres on the plight of the Crone inmates. The outcome could be important in shaping America's attitude to the future arrival of refugees on its shores and frontiers.

All the Haitians requested political asylum. Each is entitled to an individual hearing and has the right to a lawyer. All can appeal if the request is denied and all must be provided with a Creole translator. Quite simply, there are not enough hearing examiners, lawyers or translators available to cope with President Reagan's new policy.

The Reagan administration ordered illegal immigrants,

armed cars, police in riot gear and troops with unslung rifles patrolled the tense northern sector of the Indonesian capital today after an arson and rioting on Thursday which left at least 63 injured, hundreds of shops damaged and scores of cars burnt.

The Jakarta security authorities denied there had been any deaths in the rioting at Thursday's election rally. However, hospital sources told me there had been at least three deaths by stoning. The number of people officially reported to have been arrested had risen to 240 today with the number of injured put at more than 60.

Muslim services broadcast at midday today included calls for "patience and demonstrations" and a com-



Workers grill the Pope

Leghorn, March 19.—The Pope braved the sting of hostile questions from Communist workers today during a visit to a chemical plant owned by the same company that employed him as a quarry worker in Poland during the Second World War.

The Pope flew to this busy Mediterranean port on the feast day of St Joseph and toured the Solway plant employing 2,000 workers in a white helmet (above).

In 1940, the young Wojtyla avoided deportation to Nazi Germany by working in the Solway factory near Cracow. He worked there for four years.

Members of the Communist trade union asked questions about unemployment, world hunger, high worker mortality, political activities by priests and alleged church interference in Italian politics.

While the questions were put politely to the Pope and one emotion-choked worker called him "your majesty," the tone was aggressive and applause resounded each time a worker finished.

Replying under the red flags of the chemical workers' union, the Pope denied about 100 union leaders by saying: "You find yourself in the position of bosses and I find myself in a position of the workers and there are many questions I cannot answer."

Florida lawyers file suit to free Haiti refugees

From Christopher Thomas, Miami, March 19

Crone refugee camp is an ugly yellow-brick structure that stands inconspicuously alone amid thousands of acres of tomato fields west of Miami, Florida.

Within its towering perimeter nearly 600 of the 2,100 Haitian refugees imprisoned in the United States spend endless, tedious days watching television programmes they cannot understand and wondering what the future holds.

America is acutely embarrassed by Crone, yet nobody seems to know what to do with it. Some see it as a human rights scandal. Others regard it as a chilling example of what could happen on a large scale if the United States had a huge influx of refugees, as well it might if the Central American turmoil worsens.

The Haitian boat people fled from the regime of Jean-Claude Duvalier, a regime that Washington says is not guilty of human rights violations. They arrived for the most part in leaky wooden boats. Many of them have been held for nine to 10 months.

Normally they could expect to be processed by the department of immigration and quickly released to relatives or others pending an immigration hearing. Since mid-1981 that has all changed.

The Reagan administration ordered illegal immigrants,

Israeli troops remove squatters from Sinai

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, March 19

Helicopter-borne troops searched the Sinai desert today and seized 35 men, women and children who had spread out in the dunes before the start of their campaign to prevent the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the peninsula by April 25.

The military command said the operation was completed in the early afternoon and all 35 squatters were taken by lorry across the former international border. But *The Stop*, the withdrawal from Sinai movement's headquarters in Yamit said there had been approximately 100 squatters and some were still hiding. They were supplied with food and water for the Sabbath.

The squatters arrived in the early morning darkness at the site of Hamat Adar, an illegal desert settlement twice cleared by the Army and levelled. The squatters pitched tents and assembled tin shacks.

The operation had been

European Law Report

Court of Justice of the European Communities

French imports of wine from Italy

Commission of the European Communities (applicant) and the Italian Republic (intervener) against the French Republic (defendant)

Case No 42/82 R Before the President of the Court of Justice, Judge J. Mertens de Wilmars, Advocate General: Sir Gordon Slynn. [Order made March 4]

On February 4, 1982 the Commission acting in accordance with Article 163 of the EEC Treaty commenced proceedings against the French Republic for a declaration that the latter had failed to fulfil its obligations under Community law, in particular Articles 30 and 31 of the Treaty by subjecting Italian wines to unnecessarily delayed customs clearance.

On February 5 the Commission acting in accordance with Article 166 of the Treaty and Article 83(2) of the Rules of Procedure made an application for the adoption of interim measures requiring the French Republic to ensure the

free movement of wine pending the outcome of the main action.

In his judgement, the President first considered whether a prima facie case had been made out in accordance with Article 83(2) of the Rules of Procedure and after referring inter alia to the evidence submitted by the Commission and the French Republic, he concluded that there was a prima facie case.

(C) The release for consumption of consignments of wine can be refused on the ground of irregularity of the accompanying documents only where such irregularities are substantial.

(D) When substantial irregularities are established by the French authorities the latter must inform the Italian authorities of these, without delay and supply the necessary documentation. Every consignee in respect of which the accompanying document has been put into proper form by the Italian authorities must immediately be released for consumption.

2. When the release for consumption of consignments of wine from Italy exceeding a total of 50,000hl is refused for a period longer than 21 days for reasons of irregularity of the accompanying documents, the French authorities must inform the Commission of the reasons for such a refusal.

Hehir v Commissioner of police of the Metropolis Before Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Brightman (now Lord Brightman)

[Judgment delivered March 19]

Statements made by a complainant in the course of an investigation into the conduct of the police under section 49 of the Police Act 1964 were protected on the ground of public interest privilege. As a result during the course of a civil action brought by the complainant for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution, the police could not cross-examine him on his statement. If there could be a waiver of public interest immunity, then waiver should be by the person providing the statement and not its recipient.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the plaintiff, Gerard Anthony Hehir, during the course of the trial before Mr Justice Russell who had ruled that the defendant, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, was entitled to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement he had made as a complainant pursuant to the section 49 investigation.

Mr Justice Russell indicated that he would welcome the guidance of the Court of Appeal and the court on March 14, 1982 decided that *Nelson v Llanghorne* (The Times December 19, 1980) (1981) QB 735 was binding on the court and reserved their judgments on their reasons for their decision.

Mr Colin Rosa-Munro, QC and Mr Alan Bayliss for the plaintiff; Mr Laurence Marshall for the defendant.

Law Report March 20 1982 Court of Appeal

Privilege for complaints

been the practice of the police solicitor to advise police defendants in civil proceedings to disclose all statements made under section 49 proceedings so that a plaintiff in a civil action would be able to take copies of them for his own statement but also copies of statements made by police officers and the plaintiff could then be cross-examined.

That was a fair way of dealing with such litigation because all witnesses could be cross-examined on previous inconsistent statements. As a result of the decision in *Nelson*, which had made those statements immune from discovery, the defendant in the present case claimed public interest immunity for all statements made by the police in connection with the investigation of the plaintiff's complaint.

The trial judge ruled that the defendant was entitled to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement. The ruling revealed the difficulty trial judges had to deal with in civil claims against the police.

The defendant's counsel has the plaintiff's statements in his

brief. The plaintiff's counsel had not got, and would not get, the statements against the defendant's claim to public interest immunity, copies of the two policemen's statements which meant that police officers would be put into a privileged position.

The inference to be drawn from all three judgments in *Nelson* was that the mantle of public interest immunity was thrown over all statements made during the course of section 49 investigations and the court was bound by the decision.

The defendant could not waive those rights of public interest immunity because if there were such a waiver it should be waived by the maker of the statement and not by the recipient, see *Rogers v The Home Secretary* (1973) AC 582 per Lord Simon.

For the above reasons the defendant was not allowed to cross-examine the plaintiff on his statement. The ruling revealed the difficulty trial judges had to deal with in civil claims against the police.

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brief. The plaintiff's counsel had not got, and would not get, the statements against the defendant's claim to public interest immunity, copies of the two policemen's statements which meant that police officers would be put into a privileged position.

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waiver did not arise but was

discussed in the instant case the defendant sought to make use of the statements against the complainant's witness.

If public interest immunity existed, the recipient of the statement could not waive protection from production but waiver by the maker of the statement raised different considerations. If the complainant had complied his statement at home and kept a copy, he would not be bound to disclose that copy in his list of documents.

Nor would there be any public interest in the statement unless it was alleged that the statement was made in connection with a security matter.

It was arguable that public interest would not always attach to a statement made for the purposes of section 49 proceedings, if the maker of the statement wished it to be disclosed.

Perhaps that was not strictly a question of waiver, but of public interest immunity ceasing to attach to a statement in particular circumstances. In that sense, only, could one question the view that the court could not be waived of public interest immunity. The appeal would be allowed. Solicitors: Solicitor for Metropolitan Police; David Hanson.

سكوتيا لال



Perhaps all is not lost!

Yours etc,
PETER DAVISON,
Darwin College,
The University,
Canterbury,
Kent.
March 18.

Saturday Review

When he was thirteen, in the 1940s, Philip Oakes was expelled from the Bluecoat School in Wolverhampton after naming the headmaster as an embezzler. He was sent in disgrace to a Methodist run Children's Homes school in Lancashire. "Plans had been made, letters had been exchanged, my future had been decided without anyone troubling to ask what I felt about the matter. I was hurt and I was infuriated."

The next morning I awoke to find someone kicking the foot of my bed. I looked up apprehensively and saw a squat, sturdy man with bright blue eyes standing over me. He wore a striped flannel shirt secured at the neck by a collar stud and a black waistcoat traversed by a gold watch chain. His arms were folded and his right hand supported the bowl of a pipe from which a blue thread of tobacco smoke climbed towards the ceiling. His posture implied that he had been waiting there for some time and that his patience was wearing thin. "All right," he said, "let's be having you. Time to rise and shine."

His name, I recalled, was Mr King. I had met him and his wife the previous evening when Mr Buller had steered me along the rutted road and through the front gate of Mossop House. "Mr King is in charge here," he said. "He's what we call the Labour Master. He makes sure the important jobs get done."

It was a flattering but not, as I discovered later, a wholly accurate description of Mr King's occupation. As Labour Master he was in charge of the casual work force of boys who had left school but had not yet been apprenticed to a regular trade. The jobs for which they could eventually train were limited to those essential to the running of the branch, but competition was fierce. There was a farm, a bakery, a boot-repairer, a smithy (which also offered a grounding in electrical repairs) and the branch stores. Only a few boys were accepted as apprentices. The rest joined Mr King's labour squad which was known as the Shop. They were responsible for sweeping the roads, moving furniture, spreading manure, mending walls, chopping firewood, clearing fields of sunken stones and laying the drains which would make them fit for farming. Everyone served time on the Shop. Older boys who were still at school were required to donate their Saturday mornings to community service. Juniors were pressed-ganged when rain threatened the hay crop or potatoes were to be planted or picked. There was no pretence that there was dignity in the labour. The work was there to be done and the chief lay in doing as little of it as possible. I learned this in the months to come. I also came to appreciate the fathomless sloth that lay behind Mr King's busy facade. But my first impressions were very different.

As he stood by my bed, I studied his face, pricked by pores as deep as dimples. He was going bald and his scalp showed pallidly between the watered strips of hair that spanned his head, linking ear to ear as if he was wearing headphones. He had a large but firm belly and trim dancer's feet. His arms were furrowed with fine, almost invisible hair and they were as thick as the legs of pork which Mr James, our butcher at home, attacked so fiercely with his chopper. He seemed to be lost in thought, but without warning he gripped the edge of my bed, straightened his arms and tipped me to the floor. Deliberately he took the pipe from his mouth.

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In the spring, bit by bit, day by day, as the nights lengthened and the weather brightened, and as the gardens are sown and planted, the village comes to obvious life again, and people come out into the open, like animals from their winter retreats. People walk their dogs without being too brisk about it now, and take a stroll to the pub, and do their gardens, or else simply stand, in the doorway that lets on to the lane, at the gate, by the wall, watching to see who goes by, giving good day, catching up on the news. Mrs Miggs takes her upright chair, with the old, round knitted cushion and her crochets, and sits in the porch, and Mr Harrow, who is very old, very lame, opens his window wide and sits at it hour after hour, and the canary sits beside him in its cage. Mrs Miggs was married sixty-two years ago, in Barley Church, from the Grange where she was then in

service, and where she met her husband-to-be, who was one of the gardeners, and they went back there for a year or two, until her mother died and it was her job to return home, a hundred yards away, to the cottage she had been born in. There, she looked after her father and her husband and, later, her dead sister's three children. The Miggses had, as she put it, "no cuttings". She remembered the dances at The Grange, every Christmas, and Midsummer, for all those in service in the village, and the rest of the village, and the balls for the carriage folk, and the parties for the girls from the orphanage. She remembered when our Moon Cottage was three cottages, each one up and one down, with as many as eight people living there. "There was never so many houses then," she said, "but there was a good few more people." Barley was a large village once. It had two



Dishonourable schoolboy

by Philip Oakes

transgress and advising me that I was under observation. Evidently I was considered a hard case, and I remembered my mother and my uncle filling in forms which they hid when I came into the room and which I had subsequently failed to intercept. In their eagerness to feed the archives they had provided me with a reputation which it would have been perilous to live up to. I resolved there and then never to come into direct conflict with Mr King.

He walked up and down my strip of the floor. "That's more like it. Now go and get washed. Shirt off and don't forget to do behind your ears."

In the washroom a line of smaller boys filed past a woman wearing a blue silk dress with a starched white collar. Her name was Sister Aggie and with Mr and Mrs King she shared the running of Mossop House. As I already knew from the pamphlets with which my mother had been supplied, the homes were largely financed by Methodist chapels and organizations. There were 30 branches situated all over the country. There was an average of 10 houses to a branch and each of them was staffed by women known as Sisters whose job was to act as house mother to small family units of boys or girls. It was not a religious order, but their

uniforms and titles somehow set them apart. They were like nuns or wardresses; agents of the institution. Usually two of the Sisters were responsible for the management of a house but Mossop, as I had already been told, was where they tamed tigers. It was where the hard cases were subjected to the proper discipline and Mr King was the disciplinarian.

Sister Aggie had a flushed and fleshy face and small eyes which were miniaturized still further by the thick lenses of her spectacles. Her hair straggled from a loose bun and she had a faint but perceptible moustache. After we had washed and dried ourselves we presented ourselves for her inspection, baring our wrists and necks to show they were no tidiemakers. She pored over our flesh as if searching for a text which would miraculously surface the longer she looked, but she avoided touching us except for the very smallest boys. She seemed to be in a flux of embarrassment and irritation, tossing her head so that her glasses glinted and her hair spilled over her collar. When it was my turn she peered so closely that I felt her breath graze my naked back. "Your neck's dirty," she announced. "Where?" I tried to see myself in the mirror on the wall.

"There." She prodded me with her finger. "I can't see anything." "Well, I can see it," she said. "There's muck you could grow turnips in."

I sensed everyone watching me and while I tried to frame a retort Mr King sauntered into the washroom. "Any bother, Sister?" he enquired. She smoothed back her hair and lodged her glasses more securely on her nose. "No, not really."

Mr King propped himself comfortably against the wall while I scrubbed by neck with a flannel and then offered the glowing evidence to Sister Aggie. "That's better," she said. "Now you can get dressed."

"And look sharp about it," said Mr King. "It's breakfast in two minutes." Mrs King said grace. The boys sat at four long tables, two at each end of the room, while she shared a small central table with Mr King and Sister Aggie. She was small and pale with a drooping mouth and bags like purses of lilac silk beneath her eyes. She looked as if she had slept badly and the tea-cup was too heavy for her frail hand. When she buttered a square of toast she studied it for a full minute; then put it gently to the side of her plate. Sister Aggie refilled her cup and she sipped the tea reproachfully as though

Dwellers All in Time and Space: A Memory of the 1940s is the second volume of autobiography by Philip Oakes and followed the highly-acclaimed *From Middle England: A Memory of the 1930s*. He has written four novels, among them *Experiment at Proto* and *A Cast of Thousands*, and three volumes of poetry. An anthology of his poems, drawn from those collections, will be published by Andre Deutsch in August. A journalist and broadcaster, Philip Oakes was the film critic of *The Evening Standard* and *The Sunday Telegraph* before becoming a columnist on *The Sunday Times*.



it was medicine which she was forcing herself to drink.

The previous evening when I had been brought to the house by Mr Buller we had been shown into the sitting room where Mrs King sat on a low nursing chair, an embroidery frame in her lap. Mr Buller traced the design with his finger. "Roses again, I see," he said.

"The wife's very fond of roses," said Mr King. Tapestries draped over the backs of two easy chairs confirmed his observation. They swarmed with red roses and yellow roses. There were even one or two blue roses. "Does your mother do embroidery?" Mrs King asked me. "She can't. She gets headaches."

Mrs King threaded a needle with green silk and drew it through the canvas. A leaf budded beneath her hand and she smiled sympathetically. "Your mother misses a great deal. You must be a good boy for her sake."

"And for his own," said Mr Buller. "He must make his mind up about that. No more wasted opportunities." He clapped me on the back. "Go and make yourself known to the other boys."

I did as I was told. They sat in a semi-circle around a small fire in the next room and I noticed that although several of them were bigger and I presumed older than me, all but one wore short trousers. The firelight bounced off their bare knees. "She'll have them off you," said a boy whose hair stood up from his head in Vaseline quills. "She'll have what off me?"

"Them." He plucked my trouser-leg. "Only the biggest lads wear longies here."

"My mother bought these," I said. They snickered silently at the fire as if I had said something amusing. "I'm telling you," said the boy with spiky hair. "You'll be back in short pants tomorrow."

"Happen he will and happen he won't," said another boy. He wore a school blazer with a badge on the breast pocket. "Where are you from?" he asked me.

"Stoke on Trent." "That's what I heard," he said. "Like me. Best place on earth. Where exactly?" "High Lane. Near Burslem," I said.

"Posh, are you?" "I shook my head. "Not a bit." "Went to a posh school, though. That's what they say."

I was suddenly aware that everyone present knew my entire case-history and I was being studied to see whether I measured up to it. "I was expelled," I said.

"What for?" "I was a bad influence." "What's that?" "You'll have to ask them," I said. "They just wanted to get rid of me."

"Did they whack you there?" asked the boy in the blazer. "Sometimes." "With a cane or a strap?" "A cane," I said. "On the hand."

"How many?" "Varied. Six mostly." "They gave me a dozen

once", he said, spreading his palms for inspection. "Six on each hand."

"That for?" "Smoking", he said. "How about you?" I showed them a packet of Park Drive. "Where can we have a drag?"

"In the furnace room", said the boy with spiky hair. "After tea when they've all settled down." The boy in the blazer held out his hand. "My name's Ray Clutton," he said. "Come and sit next to me. Potteries lads should stick together." He folded my fingers over the packet of cigarettes. "Put them away, for Christ's sake. You don't want everyone to see what you've got." He looked fiercely round the watching faces. "And there's not room for all of you in that furnace room. Doss and Spiff and Skelly. That's the lot."

Doss was dark and thick-set. Spiff was the boy with the spiky hair and Skelly was tall and abnormally thin. His knuckles stood out on his hands like knots of red amber and his eyes glared as if unseen thumbs were pressing them from behind. Other than myself he was the only one wearing long trousers. They were made of some dark worsted material which looked exhausted as though it had been repeatedly boiled and wrung out.

"Batley shoddy", he said, intercepting my gaze. "That's what they call it. Cheapest stuff on the market. It's for working togs mostly."

"Not like this", said Ray, fingering my flannels. "You'll get all the lasses with these. They like a bit of swank."

We shared a table for tea — slices of brown bread and margarine with one small green apple apiece — and afterwards I was led across the yard to the furnace room. It was cramped and dusty, like a shoe box stood on end. Skelly wedged the door shut with a brick. The wind sang in the chimney. I handed round the cigarettes and we all lit up. There was a concert of deep and dramatic inhalations.

"You want to keep it down as long as you can", said Ray. "That's how you get the benefit." When he exhaled, his breath revealed practically no trace of smoke. "It's all gone into the system", he explained. I thought about Mr King and his large, inquisitive nose. "Won't they smell it on us?" I asked.

Ray delayed answering until he had digested another lungful of smoke. "He's not bothered about us. Not so long as we don't make a show of it. He's an idle bugger."

"Just do as you're told and look busy", said Spiff. "He told us that himself."

"Army rules", said Doss. "He don't want no trouble", said Skelly. "He keeps telling us not to rock the boat."

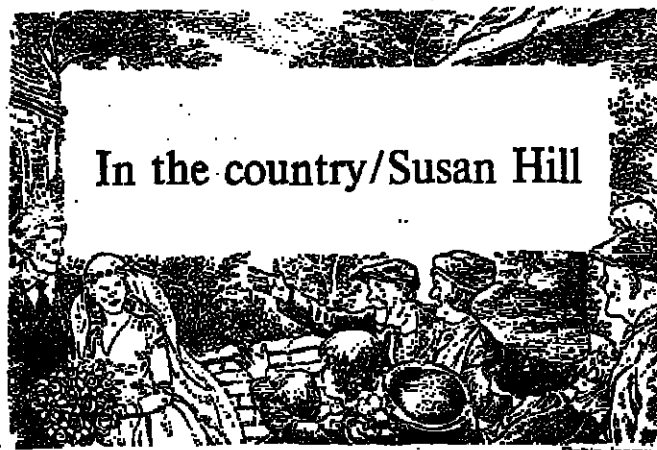
I learned that Skelly worked in the branch stores, distributing groceries to both the girls' and boys' houses. Doss was still a pupil at the branch school, but about to become apprenticed to the smithy. Spiff worked in the bakery and Ray attended a technical school at Bury. "They'll send you out too", he said confidently. "Old Buller likes to show off his bright lads."

As an armed dweller in Time and Space by Philip Oakes, published next Thursday by Andre Deutsch, price £8.50.

They gave me a dozen

Mrs Miggs in the springtime

In the country/Susan Hill



farmers, but who still live in Barley, and great-grandchildren at the village school. On the corner of Fen Lane and the slope that leads up to High Holt and the Ridge, there is a house called the Old Forge, and the farrier, Mr Dove, still occupies it, though it is no longer a forge in the strict sense, for his forge is his van, he is a

outside the Old Forge, before all the guests went over to the Carpenter's Arms for the reception, when they fired the anvil. It is not a Barley tradition. Blacksmiths — all over the county have had an anvil fired at their weddings for generations and many still do.

Opposite the cottage is a low, grassy mound, on to which the anvil had been dragged. Everyone stood around it, all over the lane, and there were two big fireworks stuffed into the anvil hollows, with a makeshift fuse, a piece of tape, leading down on to the grass and across the road. A lot of fussing about, and checking the fuse, and rearranging, a lot of family cameras to the ready, and then the farrier and his new wife were pushed forward a little, and the farrier's father lit the fuse.

It crept slowly, slowly, towards the fireworks. The children began to get restless, everyone looked either embarrassed or worried, or a

bit cold, in the spring breeze, but expectant. Two blackbirds were singing like mad in the lilac tree above the bank, and just as someone was saying "It's gone out", there was one bang, a puff of yellow smoke, and then the second, bigger bang, and everybody cheered and applauded and clapped the farrier on the back and kissed his bride, and the blackbirds flew off, screeching, startled into the trees. The blacksmith was well and truly married. We strolled back past the pond, and up the High Street, back to the church, and climbed the steep, gravelled path between the leaning gravestones to the ancient wooden door.

There were white and pink paper petals on the ground, and spring sunshine. That Easter Monday evening, Mrs Miggs, in her ninety-sixth year, rolled up her crochets, and took in her chair, at the end of the afternoon, and closed her

door and went to bed, early, as she always did, in the room that used to be the parlour, for she had not been able to climb the stairs since breaking her hip five years before, and in the night, in her sleep, died.

And so there was a funeral service at the church to follow the farrier's wedding, and people in Barley felt saddened, for Mrs Miggs was so well-known and liked, such a familiar figure, she had seemed immortal, and another link with the old days, the old village life, was severed. Sad too, we said, that she did not reach her hundredth year, to which she was looking forward.

Mrs Miggs's cottage is up for sale now, and it will have to be renovated and perhaps altered drastically, and never look the same, and we miss the sight of her, on her chair with her crochets, as we go up the lane past her door, of an evening.

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Travel: edited by Shona Crawford Poole

High summer in Crete Beware the wicked month of August

At 10 in the morning it was 90 in the shade and the shrill of cicadas was like walking under the power lines of the national grid. There was a shimmering, Cretan traffic snarl up at the gates of Knossos and a queue to get in. Guides touted 150 drachma tours, sorting the tourists into national groups at 50 practised paces.

A stocky lady guide called 10 English speakers. Her command of our tongue was, to be kind, limited. Though whether it was the lady herself or the language which condemned the party to its inferior status was a puzzle I could not solve in the competitive press of groups with louder guides. What with the heat and through it was hard going to focus on Minoan civilization. August was clearly not an ideal month to visit the largest and most southerly of the Greek islands.

The museum of the bustling seaport capital Heraklion houses art treasures from the nearby Knossos excavations,

and both are likely to be compulsory pilgrimages for most visitors to Crete. But the big city and its string of seaside suburbs are not the most appealing base for a high summer holiday.

Aghios Nikolaos, is nearer what many people have in mind when they dream of Greek islands. Busting tavernas line the quays. Fishing boats bob photographically on turquoise water and small boys dive dramatically from cliffs round the harbour in a whooping day-long cabaret.

It is also possible to enjoy the natural splendours of Crete in a cocoon of unnaturally exclusive luxury. For as well as small towns and villages like Aghios Nikolaos and Kania which have prospered on tourist spending, there are plush new developments like the Elounda Beach Hotel.

More a self-contained resort than an hotel, Elounda Beach pampers its guests shamelessly. Pretty stone cottages, blessedly air conditioned, are linked to the

main hotel building by paths lined with oleanders. Room service extends to the secluded sun terraces of these waterfront bungalows, from which dawn and sunset may be romantically viewed. Topless bathing is forbidden on the private beach and in the pool area - nowadays unusual restriction.

For those who like local colour in measured doses there is a taverna in the grounds. The piano player's repertoire, like the menu, is international. And, of course, there is a disco, plush, pulsating, and sensibly positioned by the security gate on the far side of the car park.

If our modest hire car looked very small beside the big saloons lined up in the car park at Elounda, it seemed quite at home in the narrow streets of Aghia Galini on the less developed southern coast of Crete.

On the drive south the narrow road through parched mountain landscapes opens startlingly on to the green

Lassithi Plateau. Rugged windmills stand guard on the watershed pass. Tattered sails thrack in the breeze and there are more windmills as far as the eye can see. Embroidered linen and crochet work, hand made by local womenfolk, and sometimes whole families, hangs from almost every house in Tzermiado.

We asked a young woman sewing at the door of her shop if we might photograph one of the old ladies in black with her display of white tablecloths and bedspreads. She smiled at the camera, but brought her mother to pose for the camera. The nearby ancient ruins were not relatives, she explained.

I would have liked to linger in Tzermiado, but Aghia Galini called. An unspoiled fishing village in a description of it still found in guidebooks. I wonder if the authors have been there lately. Haphazard new buildings look pretty enough from the harbour. But the view from hotel balconies is a less

attractive vista of washing and water tanks.

Sun, sea and reasonable prices attract throngs of young holidaymakers who pack the cramped stony beaches. Tavernas throb with pop music far into the night and the atmosphere is distinctly predatory.

Too many holidaymakers in any one place distort the local atmosphere they have travelled so far to experience. Plainly a great many people were hugely enjoying Crete in August, but I would like to return in spring.

Olympic Holidays offers a wide selection of holidays on Crete with direct flights to Iraklion. Self-catering apartment holidays based in Aghios Nikolaos cost from £187 for two weeks in low season.

A double bungalow on the waterfront at the Elounda Beach Hotel, half board in the high season (May 15 to October 31), costs about £35 a day.



Day's end for an Heraklion street photographer

Surcharges/Derek Harris Long haul hikes

The good news about fuel surcharges on package holidays is that on short-haul holidays, for example to the Mediterranean, those late summer's brochures were calculated in July last year, and based on estimates of how currencies will vary in value in relationship to each other. There is, for instance, a currency factor in this summer's United States, Caribbean and Mexican holidays of increases of between 2.5 per cent and 3.7 per cent.

But this pales beside the effect of the airlines raising their prices. The package tour industry tends to discuss this in terms of a fuel surcharge. This has little to do with it this time round but the post-Laker situation does have to be faced.

It affects all holiday operators using scheduled airlines as carriers. Ostensibly a Miami holiday could be facing a 46 per cent surcharge, a Los Angeles holiday 18.3 per cent, and in Honolulu - the lowest increase - an 11.03 per cent surcharge.

These figures are from Thomson Holidays which guarantees no more than a 10 per cent surcharge on brochure prices. In theory the package operator with such a guarantee foots the bill for the difference.

for Italian holidays, but lower, on for instance, North African and Malta Breaks.

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In fact it would be surprising if Thomson and other key operators have not been able to negotiate airline arrangements to reduce such a liability. Thomas Cook, like some other operators, if gives customers the chance to opt out with a money back deal if surcharges go over 10 per cent. Thomas Cook which, like Thomson, had been using Laker as a carrier to some destinations, has renegotiated deals with airlines and expects to keep almost all the surcharges within the 10 per cent. What such companies always have to take into account is consequential losses if, when the surcharge goes over 10 per cent are so many cancellations that booked facilities like coaches also have to be cancelled.

With the trend strengthening towards late booking for many holidays it looks like as if early booking this season has had its virtues where, as with big transatlantic operators like Jetset, there is a no-surcharge guarantee if holidays are paid in advance.

Holiday discount news

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Save	Departures
SKIING					
St Lary, France	7 s/c	Thomson	£64	£30	Mar 27, 8 Luton
Formigal, Spain	7 s/c	Thomson	£73	£30	Mar 27 Luton
Seefeld, Austria	7/14 h/b	Swire	£134/219	£50	Apr 4, 11
Caspoggio, Italy	7/14 h/b	Swire	£84/136	£50	Mar 27, 8 Manchester
Santa Caterina, Italy	7/14 h/b	Swire	£106/164	£50	Mar 27, 8 Manchester
Zermatt, Switzerland	7 s/c	Ski West	£110	£45	Mar 27
Courmayeur, Italy	7/14 h/b	Ski West	£104/210	£50/85	Mar 27
Verbier, Switzerland	7/14 h/b	Ski West	£129	£76	Mar 27
Courchevel, France	7/14 h/b	Ski West	£169/209	£70/130	Apr 3
La Plagne, France	7/14 s/c	Ski West	£129/163	£20/40	Apr 10
Val d'Isere, France	7/14 h/b	Club Mark Warner	£189/297	£50	Mar 27 & Apr 3
Meribel, France	7/14 h/b	Club Mark Warner	£195/299	£50	Mar 27 & Apr 3
Val d'Isere	7/14 h/b	Ski MacG	£209	£29/39	Mar 27
Verbier	7/14 h/b	Ski MacG	£209	£29/39	Mar 27
Verbier	7/14 s/c	Ski Sunburst	£135/205	£41/57	Apr 3
Meribel	7/14 s/c	Ski Sunburst	£140/210	£34/44	Apr 3
St Anton, Austria	14/14	Small World*	£209	£30	Mar 28
Portofino, Switzerland	14/14	Small World	£199	£50	Apr 4
WINTER SUN					
Biza	7/14 s/c	Silver	£99	£44	May 2, 9, 16 & 23
Los Palmas	7/14 s/c	Silver	£129	£52	May 3, 10, 17 & 24
Yugoslavia	14/14	Portland*	£149	£50	Apr 6
Costa Brava	14/14	Portland	£129	£50	Apr 6
Greece	7/14 h/b	Thomson	£169	£20	Apr 14, 21 Newcastle
Gambia	14 h/b	Thomson	£350	£89	Apr 1, 8, 15, Luton
Majorca	7/14 h/b	Thomson	£125	£30	Apr 16, 18, 23, Luton
Madeira	14 h/b	Ellerman	£289	£59	Mar 24, 31, Glasgow
Peloponnes, Greece	7/14 s/c	Timeway	£121/142	£33	Apr 16, 23, 30 & May 7

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices. * May only be booked directly. Portland telephone 01-388 5111 or 061-228 1188. Small World 01-240 3233.

Horizon announced an extension of its no-surcharge guarantee on summer holidays this week. There will be no surcharges on Horizon holidays with departures on or between March 26 and June 30. In addition to the winter sports discounts mentioned in this week's table, Neilson is reducing prices on selected holidays by up to £50. The holiday maker chooses the board arrangement, departure date and airport, and the destination country - Austria or France - and the tour operator allocates the resort and accommodation. S.C.P.

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Shoparound with Beryl Downing

When adrift, just build an ark

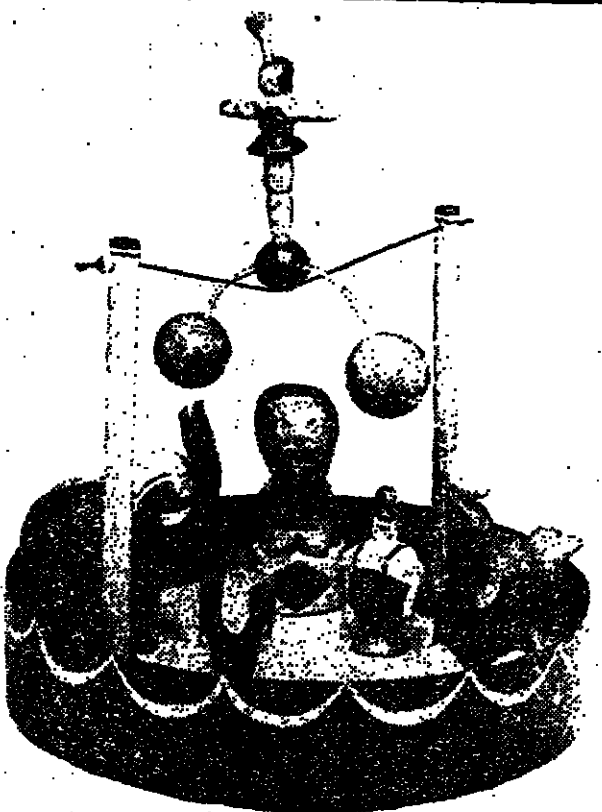
If you found yourself in Cornwall, unemployed and with nothing more than the clothes you stood up in, what would you do? When David Plagerson faced that problem five years ago his survival instinct took a fairly well-documented turn — he promptly set about building an ark.

It was not the full-size sort that in times of flood might get stuck on Porlock Hill but a hand-carved wood model, complete with Mr and Mrs Noah and 36 pairs of animals. Since then the Plagerson arks have become so collectable that 60 per cent of his output is exported to America, and examples have been bought by the British Green Toy Museum and by the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris.

Now new hand-made toys are being added to the range. There is a nativity set of crib, stable and 10 characters and a model village of 25 painted, bearded figures and roads which can be laid out in many permutations. It is based on the Cornish landscape and has six typical buildings, including a farm, pub and church.

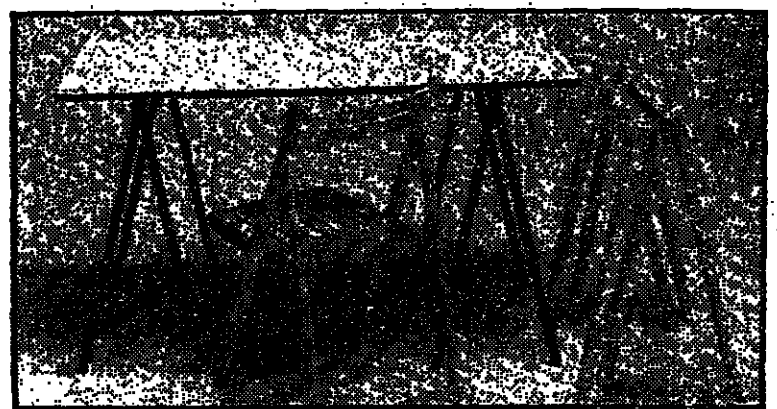
My pick of the painted toys would be a circus. The round box forms twin rings, one fitted with a high wire, and there are two acrobats, a ringmaster, clown, two lions, an elephant, seal, horse and two poodles.

Handwork of this quality — each piece is beautifully modelled and painted — cannot be cheap. The painted ark takes a week to complete and costs from £220 to £375 according to the number of animals. The village is £89, nativity set £112, circus £127. There is also an amusing mechanical cat and mouse — the cat



Top: hand carved unpainted Noah's ark animals from a large selection at £2.25 each. By David Plagerson.

Right: hand carved and painted circus by David Plagerson, £127 (not all pieces shown).



From the Basics collection, table top on white with blue edge banding. £9.95 with blue metal trestles, £19.50 a pair; pine trestles £19.95 a pair, folding chair, £5.95. All front branches of Habitat from March 27.

First-time functional

For the last five years or so, Habitat customers have been getting younger. The first faithful of the late 1960s have grown up and the new young home makers cannot find what they want at prices they can afford. So Habitat this week launched Basics.

This is a collection of all the essentials in a first home and the emphasis is very much on pared-down prices, achieved by combining for the first time the buying power of Habitat's 33 British stores with their 15 French ones.

Designers, instead of concentrating on specialized items such as china or linen, have been commissioned to create ideas across a whole range of goods, all bearing the Basics identity and costing no more than basic prices.

The result is a range of furniture, fabrics, lighting, wallpaper, tableware and bedding which should be affordable even by first time flat sharers. It will be shown in Habitat stores from next Saturday and will be promoted for two months as a collection. After that, items will be dispersed to their appropriate departments, but will still bear a distinctive Basics red, white and blue label so that they will be easy for bargain-hunters to spot.

There will be sofa beds at £199, occasional chairs with tubular frames and padded canvas covers at £25, ceramic table lamps with shades at £7.95, kitchen units from £22.50 for a single wall unit, striped enameled steel pans from £3.95, wine glasses 99p each, white porcelain dinner plates at £1.25 each and smart white handled cutlery at £5.99 for a seven-piece table setting.

Fabric wallpaper and blinds are in fresh, bright colours — blue, red, green and a smiling, daffodil yellow — and there are some lightweight, machine washable duvets in blue and yellow which need no extra covers, £21.95 single.

Prices are guaranteed for five months and a coloured leaflet will be available free from Habitat stores from next Saturday or can be obtained by post from Habitat Designs Ltd, Box 2, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9DQ, enclosing a sae.

It is patently clear that Longfellow had short feet. He would certainly not have gone on about leaving footprints on the sand of time if he had been galumphing about in size 12 wellies. People — particularly women — with big feet cover their tracks whenever possible, having been made to feel bizarre since childhood and to pay over the odds for barge-shaped boots since they grew up.

Hence the success of Crispins, which opened at 5 Chiltern Street, London W1, in 1978, branched out to Manchester in 1980 and is planning to expand to larger premises in London this spring, all specializing in beautiful shoes in long fittings. Note the "long" — it sounds so much more elegant than "big" — all part of the service provided by Dawne Gutteridge who, as a wearer of size 9, knows how sensitive people can be about their feet.

"I've had customers in tears about shoes," she says. "They have been sent to the men's department and looked on as some kind of freak just because they aren't average fittings. I know how desperate they feel. When I first started I went to Italy looking for sizes 4½ and 42 — an English 8½ and 9. They thought I had translated the numbers incorrectly, fell about laughing and offered to sell me the boxes to wear!"

It was not easy to convince manufacturers that large sizes, up to 11, could be made in the sort of styles that look stylish on small feet. Dawne Gutteridge, having been a designer of children's clothes, admits that if she had known more about the shoe trade she might have allowed herself to be persuaded that what she wanted was impossible.

But she persevered and she now has manufacturers in Italy, Spain, Finland, France and

America making specially for her. There are a few English styles and she would like to buy more, but makers here have not been particularly co-operative, despite the fact that she is now experienced enough to know at a glance whether a sample size 4 will translate successfully into 8 or 9 without looking like a boat. Her ranges are from sizes 7 to 11 and include four fittings, AAA

For long, narrow feet, three shoes designed exclusively for Crispins: 1) Right: Open-toe shoe with pom pom in blue or sand kid, sizes 8 to 11, B fittings, £49.95; 2) Left: Open-toe shoe with ankle strap in silver grey or sand kid, sizes 8 to 11, B fittings, £35.95; 3) Right: Open-toe court with ankle ties, on bronze or gummetal kid, sizes 7 to 10, AA fittings, £35.50.



Left: For small, broad feet, suede sandals in burgundy or black with matching patent straps, or in all cream leather. Sizes 13 to 2½, C fittings, 3in heel, £24.50 from the Small and Tall shoe shop.

shaped heels for tall women, but also some high-heeled styles, all in fine calf, kid, suede or patent. There is also a Mini Prix range for young customers — £14 to £30 for sandals, espadrilles and some court shoes. Not, yet, shoes for men.

To complete the picture Crispins stock a selection of extra-long tights, over the knee socks at £2.25 in lots and colours and extra-length kid gloves at about £14. Handbags are available to match the shoes from £30.

Another shop specializing in unusual sizes, at both ends of the scale, is the Small and Tall shoe shop, 71 York Street, W1, where tall girls can find sizes 8½ to 11 in fittings AAA to D from £13.50 to £37.95 and small ones have a choice of sizes 13 to 2½, fittings B to E from £18.95 to £36.50. Again not all styles are available in all fittings.

Most of these are British-made in leather with resin soles and some styles can be made in special colours to order at an extra cost of £3 a pair. Delivery is three to four weeks.

Small and Tall offer the unusual service of supplying shoes by mail order. (Telephone 01-723 5321.) They have a brochure for each size range and shoes are sent on approval and may be changed until the exact size and fitting suits the customer. No extra p & p is charged, but a service charge is made on goods returned: £1 on shoes, £1.50 on boots and £5 on sandals.

So whether awkward-to-fit customers visit Crispins in Chiltern Street or Royal Exchange, Manchester, or buy personally or by mail through Small and Tall, at least they will not need to commit the unspeakable crime of referring to their aching feet. As a suave character said in a play I saw years ago, "To say 'my foot hurts' is intriguing. To say 'my feet hurt' is simply sordid."

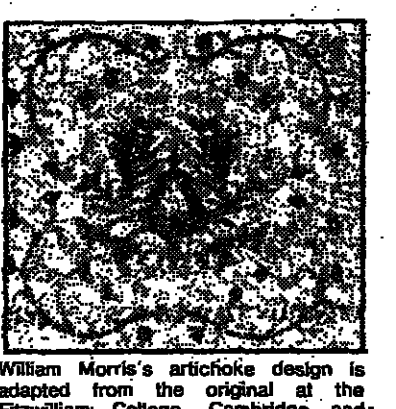
The loose smock shape has already been made a right royal fashion for mothers to be, but it is a comfortable style in hot weather for anyone. Julian Akers Douglas makes attractive traditional smocks in natural calico with cream or stone brown smocking in all sizes for children's, aged 4 to 6 at £25 to adults; small, medium and large at £55 (£22 p&p on all sizes). She will also make special sizes to order — her largest was for a man with a 46in chest and took three weeks to complete the smocking. Short, thigh lengths also available from Barham Farmhouse, East Hoothly, Leves, Sussex, telephone Holland 397.

Prints for pleasure

Collectors of prints who joined the Limited Edition Club when I reported its formation last September are finding their membership is paying dividends. The first of items for sale now includes some famous names — prints at prices much lower than their current market value.

The club was formed to provide an outlet for those who had difficulty in selling their limited editions at a reasonable price. For a £12 fee, members receive a regular For Sale and Wanted lists and are able to advertise in them without further charge.

The current list offers Helen Bradley's Picnic at £100 and Russell Flint's Waves at £175. The same editions are in a highly regarded print retailer's current list at £525 and £650. The club organizers do not pretend that such bargains crop up all the time, but if you want to have the opportunity to exercise your keen eyes, write for a membership form to Limited Edition Club, PO Box 17, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 4BW.



William Morris's artichoke design is adapted from the original at the Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and outlined on linen with white wool, 15in square, £19.75 plus 70p p&p.

Modern madness

Those who associate the Royal School of Needlework only with traditional embroidery should take a look at their first colour catalogue, just produced. It includes many traditional designs, like the one above, ranging across the centuries from Elizabethan to Edwardian times, but its most recent ones represent a particular form of madness which has boomed in recent years — astrology.

The 12 signs are hand-painted on canvas and each is 14 in square at £22.50 (70p p&p). Also in the modern range is a charming wedding sampler (worked from a chart, not printed on the canvas) at £8.50 (50p p&p) and a bold piece of white canvas 7½ in x 16 in, which would make an attractive decoration for a child's room, £10.75 (60p p&p).

The catalogue is available by post from the Royal School of Needlework, 25 Princes Gate, SW7 for £1. They also have a shop which sells materials and equipment for all types of embroidery which they will post to any part of the world; send 40p for a price list of all the items.

Gardening/Roy Hay

Biting back at the frost

Hardly a garden has escaped some damage by the severe frosts, but it is far too soon to assume that plants which look beyond all hope of survival are actually dead. Wait until June, at the earliest, before removing trees and shrubs and other plants. They may well have survived.

This winter has not really been comparable with that of 1962-63. I fear it has caused more severe and fatal damage because although the frosts arrived earlier, in November, the really severe frosts did not come until early in 1963, by which time there was deep snow cover.

Last year the frosts in December and January were unprecedentedly vicious and there was limited snow cover; we had 72 hours of near zero Fahrenheit temperatures. In 1962 the plants had longer to harden their growth and

were better able to survive the very low temperatures. We wait and hope.

Something I did not know last year is that some types of bulbs are more susceptible to prolonged and severe frosts than others. Hyacinths are easily ruined, tulips and daffodils much less so as a rule, and of course hardly ever in the open ground; only in exceptionally severe winters or they have not been planted deeply enough.

I had not come across this problem before, but last autumn, as we have done for years, we planted bulbs in about a dozen containers; stone vases, tubs and the like. The hyacinth and the daffodil bulbs were just reduced to slimy pulp but the tulips and muscari seem to have survived unscathed. Naturally, bulbs perched above ground in tubs or other containers are more vulnerable to frost than those in the open ground. Frosts have to be more severe and last much longer to affect bulbs in beds or borders.

We have a splendidly handsome specimen of the evergreen *Eucryphia nymansensis* about 12 feet high which last year was covered with its white flowers. It looks very dead, its leaves like brown paper. If it is dead, we thought, maybe it would make a wonderful support for a clematis or a honeysuckle, but our scientific friends are violently opposed to the retention and such use of dead trees. They can apparently be hosts to honey fungus, coral spot, silver leaf and goodness

knows what other diseases, as well as providing a refuge for overwintering pests. So if it is dead it will have to go, as will a cannella tree which I want to replace with a 10ft bay tree which is as brown as a berry.

Many herbaceous plants, mainly young ones raised from seed, or plants divided and planted in the autumn, I fear may have been lost. Rather than rush to replace them now, before we can be really sure that they are dead, it may be worthwhile raising a few batches of half hardy annuals, or sowing some hardy annuals.

As I reported in 1980, Unwins offered for the first time their First Early onion sets for planting in the autumn. This is an early maturing onion, giving a high yield and resistant to bolting. It is ready to harvest much earlier than onions raised from seed or from spring planted onion sets. We planted a batch last autumn and feared greatly for them when the December frosts set in but they have survived apparently without turning a hair. Unwins tell us that the hardness of these sets have been received from many parts of the country and they will replace the Japanese onion seed varieties which we have sown in the autumn for an early crop.

They certainly will for me: 20 years ago I gave up growing onions from seed sown in spring in favour of onion sets planted in March or early April.

To specify an odd or unusual ingredient in any recipe which appears in a newspaper is to invite letters from frustrated readers. These lament the unavailability of plain as well as fancy foodstuffs in sometimes surprising places and ask for advice on suitable alternatives. So it may come as a relief that there is one fashionable spice which is now seems it would be wise to shun.

Red peppercorns, also called pink peppercorns, are described as a "symbolic spice of nouvelle cuisine" in the latest edition of the journal *Petits Propos Culinaires*. It reports that the US Food and Drug Administration has suspended imports of red peppercorns following tests which confirmed health risks revealed by researchers.

In an article entitled "Red peppercorns — what they really are", Mrs Alexandra Hicks asks how a spice can become so popular "and cause such excitement among gourmets and still remain properly identified".

Red peppercorns she says are the berries of the shrub *Schinus molle* (also known as *Schinus terebinthifolius*), a species indigenous to Brazil where it is known as *Arrozeira*. Other common names for it are Brazilian pepper tree, Christmas berry and Florida holly.

Oddly, though this same shrub is common enough in Florida to be rated a pest, the red peppercorns used by American and European cooks come, we are told from the French island of

Reunion in the Indian Ocean. The harvested Reunion berries are sent to France where they are processed by freeze drying, or packing in brine, vinegar or oil.

But it was the experiences of Florida gardeners who commonly developed rashes, facial swellings and even running sores after contact with the shrub that alerted the authorities to the possible risks. Children who ate more than a few berries were sick, and birds eating too many appear drunk and are unable to fly.

To be fair to *Schinus terebinthifolius* it has a number of uses in the folk medicine of its native Brazil and in homeopathy. But for culinary purposes, it looks as if it may be safer for the present to stick to the true peppercorns of the vine species *Piper nigrum*.

Black, white and green peppercorns are all the berries of this plant which have been harvested at different stages of development and treated in slightly different ways. For black pepper the berries are picked before they are ripe and are dried in the sun. White peppercorns are fully ripened on the vine, then the husks are removed before they are dried. Green peppercorns are unripe berries with a milder flavour than either black or white pepper.

In Britain we find only the processed varieties sold in small tins or bottles. Though these are a good substitute for fresh green peppercorns, it is important to taste them before adding them to any

recipe because the strength of flavour can vary from pleasantly aromatic to tearfully hot.

Like their red or pink namesakes, green peppercorns too have been fashionable in recent years and make an attractive addition to the taste and appearance of many terrines.

The following recipe for a pork and green pepper terrine also includes the idea of baking the pâté with a split pig's trotter on top to make an instant aspic. If a trotter is hard to find, or the idea is unappealing, the terrine can be baked without it and aspic added later, or not at all.

Very coarsely ground black or white pepper may be substituted for the green peppercorns, in which case the quantity should be reduced.

Pork and green peppercorn terrine
Makes about 1kg (2½ lb)
450g (1 lb) pig's liver
450g (1 lb) fat belly of pork
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
55g (2 oz) shallot or onion, finely chopped
½ teaspoon ground mace
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon whole green peppercorns
225g (8 oz) thinly sliced pork back fat or green streaky bacon
1 pig's trotter, split
1 medium onion, sliced
1 carrot, sliced
2 bay leaves
6 tablespoons dry white wine

Chop the liver and pork very finely, or mince them coarsely. Combine the meats, garlic, shallot or onion, mace, salt, and whole green peppercorns and mix them well together. Fry a small quantity of the mixture to test its seasoning, remembering that this will be less pronounced when the terrine is served cold.

Use the back fat or bacon to line the base and sides of a terrine of about 1.25 litres (2½ pints) capacity.

Fill the terrine with the meat mixture. Place the split trotter, onion and carrot slices and bay leaves on top. Pour in the brandy and wine and, if necessary, bring the liquid up to the level of the meat.

Cover the terrine closely with foil or a lid and bake it in the centre of a preheated cool oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for about three hours. Remove it from the oven and allow the terrine to cool a little. Discard the trotter and vegetables before the aspic sets. Cover the terrine and mature it in the refrigerator for two or three days before serving it at room temperature.

The texture of this pâté is fairly coarse and free. It may be weighted as it cools to solidify the texture further.

Published by Prospect Books, 45 Lamont Road, London SW10 0HU. Issue 10 contains the report on red peppercorns.

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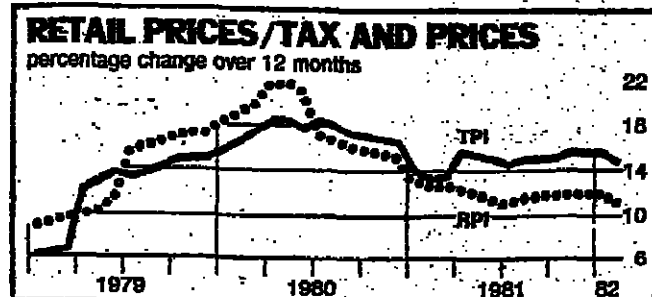
Stock Exchange Prices

Oils firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15. Dealings End, March 26. § Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 1.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

Inflation rate slows



Britain's inflation rate fell to 11 per cent in February, half the peak rate of 22 per cent recorded in the spring of 1980. The Retail Price Index did not change in February, the first time there has been no increase for 12 years. The Tax and Prices Index went up by less than 0.1 per cent to stand at 14.1 per cent above its level a year earlier.

Beckett forecasts upturn

The recent rise in Britain's exports and the effects of falling world oil prices will lead to a "light lift off" in the economy in the second half of this year with accelerating effects being felt next year, Sir Terence Beckett, the Confederation of British Industry Director General, forecast in Belfast yesterday. In his first speech since the Budget, he said the Chancellor could have afforded to cut two percentage points off the national insurance surcharge without facing an excessive borrowing requirement.

Fleming finds a formula

Robert Fleming Investment Management seems to have achieved a reorganization of its investment trusts acceptable to its main shareholders. The new plans include unitization of three of the 13 trusts — to comply with institutional shareholders' preference for a reduction in the number of trusts. A leading critic of the early plans, Mr Ian Henderson, a director of London and Manchester Assurance, which increased its stake in Fleming's United States and General Trust to block the changes, said: "I have made my peace with the Fleming's people. We have had full discussions before the announcement of the latest plans."

BP increases spot buying

BP is currently gearing up its oil buying on the spot market — at present to 25 per cent of its needs — in an attempt to cut trading losses, particularly on petrol sales. But to get a reasonable return on even this cheapest source of supply, petrol prices at the pump should be near or at 160p, Mr Ian Walker, chief executive and managing director of BP Oil, said in London yesterday.

Rolls Royce Motors is cutting its workforce at Coventry by 300 with a voluntary redundancy scheme. Two hundred redundancies will take place immediately and the rest by the end of the year. Plans to increase production have been postponed.

MARKET SUMMARY

New gilt fixed at £97.50

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.7 rose 5.9
FT Gilt 98.45 rose 0.15
FT All Share 323.16 up 3.92
Bargains 18,408

Overseas buyers kept the gilt market alive yesterday despite applications for the new Government index-linked stock falling short of expectations. The Bank of England surprised the market by fixing the opening price at £97.50, below earlier forecasts, with all orders allotted in full. The market had been expecting a sell-out with the price pitched at around £100. The news had little adverse effect on other gilt prices, but the three index-linked stocks fell by up to £1.

In long, prices were helped by the latest set of Retail Price Index figures, and closed with gains of 1/2% after 1/4%, while shorts closed virtually unchanged. Equities advanced because of the continuing bear squeeze with electricals, stores and lenders all feeding the pinch. The FT Index finished slightly below the best of the day, nervously awaiting the next set of United States money figures, closing 5.9 up at 562.7.

Oils staged a long awaited rally on hopes that the Opec ministers' meeting in Vienna would agree to cut production to preserve the present price of \$34 a barrel. Among the leaders, rose 5p to 285p, Shell 6p to 362 and Lanes 15 to 27p. Second liners featured the Humby Grove twins Carless

Capel, up 13p to 149, and Canadave, 16p dealer at 170p. Observers believe the groups should benefit from the latest rise in the naphtha price and an upgrading of production target levels for Humby Grove.

In electricals, the bear squeeze helped Racal to gain 15p to 385p, Cable & Wireless, rose 8p to 250p and Plessey, added 8p to 385p. Brokers James Capel are recommending Standard Telephone & Cables, up 8p to 53p, while highlighting the potential for its optical fibres.

Huntley & Palmer, rose 2p to 92p despite the absence of a dawn raid by Nabisco, which is said to have considered the idea, but later abandoned it. Details of European Ferries, latest move into the continental commercial property market produced several furies including the sale of a line of shares which failed to affect the price, 3p up at 82p. But a line of 400,000 Simon Engineering shares left the price 3p lighter at 37p.

Midland Bank received an unexpected boost from its full year figures, rising 13p to 365p. This in turn lifted the other majors with Barclays, 8p up at 458p, Lloyds, 8p better at 443p and National Westminster, 10p higher at 440p.

Robert H. Lowe, the textile group, jumped 5p to 58p after several stakes changed hands, Gilt & Duffus rose 3p to 144p amid rumours that its Charlton and Fulton subsidiary was for sale.

Equity launched on March 18 at £118.284m (15,958 bargains).

Michael Clark

OTHER EXCHANGES
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,065.38, up 12.58.
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,207.21, up 18.92.

COMMODITIES
Cocoa and tin producers took steps yesterday to support their flagging markets. The International Cocoa Organization agreed to borrow \$75m from a group of Brazilian banks and a Saudi Arabian bank. The loan will be financed by an increase in the levy from one cent to two cents a pound from October 1. Tin producers are likely to be called upon to cut their exports by 10 per cent in the markets cocoa fell to its lowest for nine months. March cocoa was 22s lower at 328 to 329.09. Dealers felt that the combination of higher West African and Brazilian crops and a buffer stock managers' ability to remove only another 35,000 tonnes from the market was

Slow start for inflation proof stocks

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent

The Government's move to extend the availability of inflation-proofed marketable stocks to all investors has got off to a slow start.

At yesterday's offer for sale by tender of £750m of 2 per cent index-linked Treasury stock, private investors gave a clear thumbs down, leaving much of the stock to be taken up by the Bank of England's own issue Department.

Although no minimum tender price was set when the new stock was first announced last week, the Bank decided to set a striking price of £97.50. Here the real return is about 2 1/2 per cent.

Investors who applied for stock at £97.50 or above will be allotted as much stock as they applied for, all at a price of £97.50.

The Bank set its price at £97.50 because this produced a yield roughly in line with those available on the three existing index-linked stocks. The yields on these stocks have fallen sharply since the Chancellor announced that, in future, index-linked stocks would be available to all investors and not just pension funds.

While it could be argued that indexed stocks should provide protection against currency depreciation over the longer term, on the assumption that the inflation rate and the exchange rate are loosely linked, investors may well perceive that currency depreciation will lead to a fall in the value of the stock.

On that basis, they should not buy the stock.

Although overseas investors were reportedly nibbling at the existing stocks earlier in the week, many continued to be worried about the currency risk.

With existing index-linked stocks falling back after yesterday's better inflation news, the new stock could well open at a discount. The Bank has said it will not operate the stock as a "tap" below the striking price of £97.50.

Although the initial response to news of the new stock had been that it should prove attractive to private investors, particularly to higher rate taxpayers, the feeling in the City yesterday was that applications for the new stock had been relatively sparse. Some brokers seem to have been advising their clients to hold off from the first issue of the new stock.

At the time of the new stock, many insurance companies appear to have taken the view that the prospect of falling inflation, coupled with the fact that many of their liabilities are fixed in nominal terms, are better off in conventional stocks at the moment.

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Taking a back seat with Sir Michael Edwards are (from left) Mr David Andrews, Mr Frank Fitzpatrick and Mr Ray Horrocks.

BL still on course despite £497m loss

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL, Britain's state-controlled motors group, is set to reduce its trading losses by almost half this year and is firmly on target to break even by the end of next year.

That was the message of hope yesterday from Sir Michael Edwards, chairman, who said he was "more optimistic about the company's future today than at any time in the past four years."

Sir Michael was announcing BL's preliminary 1981 results which, as expected, reveal an overall loss for 1981 of £497m compared with a 1980 deficit of £535.5m.

The loss at the trading level (before tax and interest) was £244.6m, a reduction of £50m on the previous year, which was boosted particularly by net interest charges

of £88.3m and a provision of £152m to cover restructuring and retraining.

Total sales were down by £8m to £2,869m and would have been lower but for a £139m increase in overseas sales to £1,385m. BL's direct exports rose by £4m to £884m.

The group, which received £520m of state equity cash last year, has been granted a further £420m for this year and has told the Government it will need an additional £150m up to 1985. But that, Sir Michael said, would mark the end of the taxpayers' involvement and he was confident the group would cease to be a burden on the Government once it reached break even.

The target is to break even at the trading level in 1983

and at the pretax level the following year.

Sir Michael, however, confirmed his determination to leave BL when his contract expires at the end of the year and warned his as yet unnamed successor not to stay for an indefinite period.

"Anyone in a job as visible as this one reaches a stage where he has to say: 'Is it helpful for me to continue?' Anyone doing this job knows what he could be doing to be a focus of love, hate and all sorts of other emotions. You get to the point where the company will suffer if this persists."

The chairman has, however, won the full backing of the government, particularly since accelerating the company's programme of disposal and decentralization in a bid

to attract private capital. Recently, BL negotiated £270m of medium-term bank loans.

The ideal financial outcome for the company this year, Sir Michael said, would be to reduce trading losses to the same level as last year's half-year figure of £143m.

Substantial improvements occurred last year in the cars operation, with losses cut by £115m to £168m although this was offset by a big increase in the troubled truck and bus division. Leyland Group's loss rose by £30 in 1980 to £74m and would have been worse but for the contribution made by profitable overseas companies.

Last year's total losses included £96m to cover redundancy payments for 1981 and 1982.

At the pretax level the following year.

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Franc stages a rally after early pressure

By Our Financial Staff

Most of the interest in foreign exchange markets continued to centre on the French franc yesterday. But after coming under further pressure early on the franc rallied as the day went on to close slightly firmer. Against the dollar it finished in European trading at Fr6.20.

The dollar itself was generally firm ahead of the weekly United States money supply figures. In particular, it gained ground against sterling during the afternoon, leaving the pound 1.05 cents lower on the day at \$1.7995.

In money markets the Bank of France again kept a tight rein on short-term interest rates, maintaining its intervention level at 17 per cent. But period rates eased back slightly, both in the domestic and European

markets.

In London money markets interest rates were little changed in spite of Thursday's downward moves in German, Swiss and Dutch interest rates. Although good United States money supply figures over the weekend would help sentiment, the

general feeling appears to be that the authorities would be happier holding present rates than their current levels until well into April.

At the weekly Treasury Bill tender the average rate of discount at which bills were allotted firmed very slightly, from 12.46 to 12.48 per cent.

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Bad debts hit Midland profits

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

A big rise in bad debt provisions left Midland Bank's profits virtually unchanged at £232.2m in 1981.

Its performance is the worst of the big four clearers. The others have all reported record profits for 1981, with increases ranging from 8 per cent at Barclays to 33 per cent at Lloyds.

Midland has still pushed up 1981 dividends by nearly 12 per cent to 34.3p gross, and the shares rose 15p to 348p yesterday.

Bad debt provisions were £31m higher at £113.5m, although Midland expects the level to fall this year. Charges have been made for Laker Airways and Stone-Platt Industries.

The domestic clearing bank had a lower level of bad debts, and in contrast to some of the other clearing

banks made higher profits. Midland said the clearing bank benefited by tight cost control — staff costs rose by only 11.3 per cent and United Kingdom employees were 3,000 down — and a wider margin between base and deposit rates in the face of lower average interest rates during the year.

Clydesdale Bank in Scotland, which suffered badly from the Laker collapse, was unchanged, but improved from other United Kingdom operations helped

the domestic side of the group to show a 31 per cent rise in pre-interest profit to about £199m. However, this was still 18 per cent down

from 1980.

The recent acquisition of Crocker National in California, which transformed Midland's international operations, had little effect on profits at the international banking sector were static at around £122m after higher bad debts.

The acquisition of Crocker has swelled Midland's balance sheet, accounting for £10,600m of the rise in total assets from £25,350m to £41,015m. But it has also weakened the balance sheet, with the free equity ratio down from 4.68 at the end of 1980 to 3.5. Mr Stuart Graham, chief executive, said there were no plans for a rights issue.

However, the proposal Opec officials to cut

duction to a maximum of 10 million barrels a day

than 60 per cent of O

1979 output, were cut

by delegates for not

large enough to elimina

oil glut.

The Nigerians were

ported to have dem

another large cut in o

from Saudi Arabia as

encourage collab

hold their prices at le

levels. The Aljazir

pressed for a 10-15

duction in output to

British Steel resists further price rises

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

British Steel Corporation is planning to hold prices on a wide range of its products next month when other European steel producers implement the next round of rises.

The increases, which are being coordinated by Eurofer, the European steelmakers' cartel, with the blessing of the EEC Commission in a bid to restore stability and profitability to the industry, were strongly opposed by consumer interests when the present round was initiated last autumn.

They claimed that because of the recession and the low level of demand, the industry's customers were unable to pass on the price increases.

Customer sources claimed last night that BSC would be forgoing the planned increases on virtually all products apart from tinplate. But BSC said that the move would be selective according to both product and customer. The main factor influencing the corporation is starting's appreciation against other European currencies.

Because of the surplus capacity throughout Europe, steel producers were engaged in a bitter price war which led to extensive rebores to customers. Monitored by the EEC Commission, producers have been cutting their rebates on a phased basis and the effect of BSC forgoing rebates from the beginning of April will still leave U.K. prices towards the higher end of the European scale.

Meanwhile, discussions are beginning over the future of the Commission's price regime for steel beyond the end of June. The Eurofer members have already said that they want the cartel regime to remain after June, subject to the Council of Ministers agreeing. But the industry's customers are expected to strongly resist further substantial price increases.

Both Britain and Japan are anxious to explore the scope for increasing joint ventures and collaboration in third markets, in addition to transferring technology. During the talks, led by Mr Jack Gill, a deputy secretary at the Department of Industry, British officials emphasized the interest being shown by United Kingdom companies in developing their sales of telecommunications equipment to Japan.

The British Government is conscious that the liberalization of the telecommuni-

cations market is a

role is to identify a

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The Japanese te

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Ministry of Inter

Trade and Industry

indicated that they

would encourage a

seminar in Tokyo, s

one held for American

Irish in the right mood to finish things in style

From Peter West, Rugby Correspondent, Paris, March 19

He resisted the idea of having been blackballed by India and Pakistan on three grounds. The TCCB had not supported any representative of the TCCB in Africa (there to play or coach); they had warned the players of the consequences if they came under any pressure; and their record showed they would not be pushed around, as in the case of Africa, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Boycott and Cook and India.

Mr Mann said that the TCCB had tried to be as fair as possible to South Africa and those "who had resisted the blandishments of the Relations Manager of the TCCB. He did not think the Test series this summer would be the last of the ban. Only five of the 16 players in India and Sri Lanka this winter had gone to South Africa and the TCCB was working hard to fill the gap with cricketers to fill the gaps.

The French players, who are none too enthusiastic about being stationed in a chateau many kilometers away from the lights, put much enthusiasm in scrambling when they trained this morning. Jean-Luc Joinet was packing down at number eight in the Longines Grand Prix (twice a lock this championship and once a number eight) on a flank.

not apparent at practice, where every throw involved the formation of a new team. The most noticeable joined at the top, with the top two players of the team appearing in the first throw. The Irish with their new-found strength in this area, if Moss Keane number two, and the spring-heeled Don Leahy at best number three, cannot produce some useful dividends.

Ollie Campbell needs 10 more points to better his Irish record of 46, which he has in his 40th year of membership. His many admirers may hope that his organization of affairs on the field will be rewarded by his becoming the all-around off it. The Irish president, John Moore, arrived in Dublin en route for Charles de Gaulle with his wife and only son, and was waiting to acquire a new one in

By David Hands

Twenty years ago, upon the last occasion that Scotland lost Wales in Cardiff, Gordon Waddock was winning his sixteenth cap in international rugby. He was 36 and was winning his last year of international rugby. He had played a total of 18 caps, a record for a Scottish stand-off, in 1958. Today, by John Rutherford who was 26, it is the 10th year of his career by assisting in a victory over Wales which would push Scotland up to joint second in this season's championship. The Wales players are firmly anchored among the absolute rans.

But, as the home countries are farmed over the last 14 years, travelling to the Nations Cup stadium at Cardiff is easier than the arrival. Even in times of

The reaction of the English cricketers here to the sentence passed on them at Lord's was one of "the less said the better," and it is probable that the policy all along, they were badly shaken, John Woodcock writes.

Gooch told me this morning, before the news came through, that he was not going to justify. "What have I done wrong?" he asked. "I am a professional cricketer with a contract to a limited company like a man with a clear conscience."

The main cause of Boycott's indignation is not so much that the players are to be expelled from England again, but that his being denied his freedom, the crime for which South Africa are being ostracised.

Most of the players would accept that *they were not blind to the possible repercussions when they agreed to come here. For the last three years they have been there with no compensation, not only for Gooch but for all cricketer lovers in England to whom his batting is such a joy.*

Mr. P. H. Parnell, President of the South African Cricket Union,

spoke of his bitter disappointment. An Indian I spoke to was near to tears. He described the sentence as "the worst thing that had ever happened to sport in South Africa."

□ Press Association reports: Peter Cooke, organizer of the tour, who said the players there contracted not to comment on the issue said: "I am very surprised by the severity of the decision. It is a pity that it has come when politicians interfere."

Keith Fletcher, captain of England on the previous tour, said: "I shouldn't imagine it comes as a shock to the players. I feel particularly sad that my Essex colleague, Graham Gooch, has to be reckoning for the next three years."

Dr. Al. Bacher, chairman of South African Test selectors, said: "This is a purely hysterical overreaction. It stands once again of double standards. The sentence is not becoming of the players' misdeeds. It does not fit any crime."

**From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Cape Town, March 19**

It is getting on for winter in the Cape – an equivalent of mid-September in England – and it seemed like it here today. It was cold and wet and very windy when the South African XI began a four-day game with the visiting Englishmen. In the two hours of the first Test, the Souths made 56 runs out of a score of 101 for one.

Future England sides will seem sadly incomplete without him. The Goochys of the game are few and far between. Boycott might have been a name to be revered, unless I am much mistaken, at the Lord's findings as at being given out to a close catch on the off side when he thought he hit the ball into the ground.

There are some leg-spin bowlers from Mohabbat to enjoy

though on this form he is not as fast a bowler as he must have been two or three years ago, when even the most travelled of the South Africans considered him the best bowler in the world, he is dark-haired and sturdy — a matchwinner on the day because of the work he gets on the ball.

ENGLISH vs. First Innings	
C. A. Lucking, not out	56
G. Boscawen, 40	54
W. G. Grace, not out	26
Extras (6-6-1)	3
	101
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-42, 3-49, 4-70, 5-76, 6-83, 7-100, 8-101.	
D. A. Amis, G. R. Williams, P. Watley, A. P. L. E. Knott, G. H. O. Lister, D. Taylor, D. L. Underhill, J. L. Llewellyn, J. G. D. Gifford.	
BOWLING: 1-26; 2-25; 3-26; 4-37; 5-47; 6-20; 7-21; 8-21; 9-25; 10-25; 11-25; 12-25.	
SOUTH AFRICA: *B. A. Richards, S. J. Kent, P. N. Kirsten, P. G. Pollock, A. J. Krieger, J. H. Krieger, V. V. J. Vermeulen, V. A. P. van der Bijl, S. T. J. Jeffries, D. L. Hobson.	
Umpires: School and B. Smith.	

Greg Chappell and Rod Marsh, the most experienced players in the team, rescued Australia from a precarious position in the third Test match against New Zealand at Lancaster Park here today. Chappell, who scored 76 not out, and Marsh, 18 not out, kept the innings together for 57 before bad light stopped play at tea, with Australia 202 for five in their first innings.

Chappell and Marsh came together for the 144th time, teetering at 145 for five after Howarth, the New Zealand captain, had sent Australia in to bat for the second successive Test. The cold, grey day and on a slow wicket.

Chappell, missed at 32 and 54, was lucky to escape a leg-before decision when he was out for 54 before Richard Hadlee when 29. He prospered after some streaky

shots early in his innings. When he reached 38 Chappell became

the second greatest run-
rigger, behind Sir Donald Brad-
man, who scored 6,996 in 52
Tests. Chappell passed Neil
Harvey's figure of 6,149.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings:

M. Lard & Smith, b Troup	12
S. Gonsky, c Hadley, b Dwyer	74
J. Dyson, c Brown, b Hadley	68
C. E. Turner, c Hadley, b Dwyer	10
K. J. Hughes, b Hadley	12
A. R. Border, b Sandwell	8
I. W. Marshall, not out	12
Extras (lb, w)7	13
Total (B&F)	202

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-57, 3-82,
4-128, 5-148.

Batters: J. P. Thompson, D. K. Lillee and
V. Yardley, J. C. White, S. Gonsky,
D. A. Brown, I. W. Marshall.

BOWLING (to date): Hadley, 18-4-47-2;
Dwyer, 18-4-47-2; Marshall, 18-4-55-2;
Carris, 14-2-44-0; Conry, 1-1-0-0.

NEW ZEALAND: J. G. Wright, B. Edgar,
P. F. Morrison, G. P. Howarth, J. V. Comey,
R. G. McMillan, M. J. Gower, J. G. O'Brien,
L. Gray, M. D. Stephen, G. B. Truap.

Marcus Rose, the former England Rugby Union full-back, is likely to miss the rest of the season. The injury he suffered in the match with Wales on Wednesday night has been diagnosed as torn knee ligaments.

He will certainly not have recovered by April 3, when Coventry meet Gloucester in the second round of the Anglo-Welsh Cup, and he has already withdrawn from the Barbarians team for the annual Mobbs Memorial match against the Welsh on April 4 at Northampton next Wednesday.

□ The South American Jaguars face the first real test of their invincibility when they arrive in their penultimate South African tour when they meet Natal in Durban today. The tourists have won all their matches since the opening games, winning both easily, and badly need some tough opposition before the two

Wales		
G Evans	15	Full
R A Ackerman	14	Right
(Newport)		
G W R Gravell	13	Right
(London)		
A J Donovan	12	Left
C F W Rees	11	Left
(London Welsh)		
W G Davies	10	Star
(Cardiff)		
G Williams	9	Scrum
(Bridgend)		
I Stephen	1	Prop
(Bridgend)		
A J Phillips	2	Half
(Cardiff)		
G Price	3	Prop
(Ponty pool)		
R C Burgess	6	Flank
(Abbe Vale)		
R L Norster	4	Left
(Cardiff)		
R D Moriarty	5	Left
(Swansea)		
J R Lewis	7	Flank
(Cardiff)		
E T Butler	8	Number

t Cardiff		
back	Scotland	
nt wing	A R Irvine	1
centre	(Glasgow)	1
centre	J Pollock	1
wing	(Glasgow)	1
nd off	J M Renwick	1
man half	(Glasgow)	1
rop	D I Johnston	1
ooker	(Glasgow)	1
rop	G R T Baird	1
ock	(Glasgow)	1
ock	J Y Rutherford	1
unker	(Glasgow)	1
to 8	R J Laidlaw	1
	(Glasgow)	1
	Aiken	1
	(Glasgow)	1
	C T Deans	1
	(Glasgow)	1
	I G Milne	1
	(Glasgow)	1
	J H Calder	1
	(Glasgow)	1
	W Cuthbertson	1
	(Glasgow)	1
	A J Tomes	1
	(Glasgow)	1
	D B White	1
	(Glasgow)	1
	I A M Paxton	1
	(Glasgow)	1

Wales, may seek to keep the game tight and play to the fore. The Welsh have been in good form in Cardiff against France. It will be difficult for the Welsh cap, Robert Norster, to do so if he is replaced by Steve Suter, did on his seeing he has the considerable experience of the 1982 World Cup. The opposition. Nevertheless if Wales are to run at the opposition, they will probably want to do so from the start. The half-backs, Suter and Davies have done the spadework.

Scotland, certainly, if not in Scotland, it is a change to be involved in a sideshow, while France and Ireland hold the main event. Scotland's intrepid prospector can frequently find things of value but out on the smaller states and the main event. The Welsh for Wales and Scotland to bring out their gems with Wales the favourites because they have the dividend of playing at home.

Faisalabad, Pakistan, March 19 — Pakistan's new comer, Ashraf Ali, rescued his side again with a batting innings which stopped Sri Lanka's attempt to win their first ever Test match in the second game of a three-match series today. Ashraf, who made his debut by scoring 58 to help Pakistan avoid the follow on and was in equally defiant mood with an unbeaten 29 on the fifth and final day as Sri Lanka came within three wickets of victory.

Pakistan, set 339 in 270 minutes and 20 overs, slumped to 137 for six before Ashraf and

Tahir Naqvi, put on 37 in a seventh-wicket stand which effectively dashed Sri Lanka's hopes. Ashraf and Rashid can complete the recovery. Pakistan finished on 186 for seven to preserve their 1-lead.

Sri Lanka have fought job trouble in the last few weeks and Pakistan expected to recall the seven top players who were overlooked during the Javed Miandad captaincy dispute, which has now been settled.

But Pakistan's first overseas tour since being granted Test status last year, extended their overnight 127 for eight by

27 without further loss before
deciding this morning.

59 LAURKA: I have Innies 454 (5 Wetmynn
157, R. L. Dies 88, R. S. Madagalle 91 not
out; lobet Qasim 6 for 144).

Second Innings

S Wetmynn c Ahsaral b Fahar	13
T M Madagalle c Ahsaral b Fahar	56
R. L. Dies c Mohsin b Fahar	7
R. S. Madagalle c Ahsaral b Qasim	12
R. S. Madagalle run out	1
A Ranastrang c Ahsaral b Tausif	2
M Ranastrang b Madanid b Tausif	5
D. S. de Silva c Ahsaral b Tausif	1
A. L. F. de Mel not out	25
W. K. Kalupahera not out	1
Extras (R/S, nb) 0	

Total 168 (white dec. by 154)

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-119, 2-43, 3-82, 4-82,
5-86, 6-104, 7-114, 8-114.

BOWLING: Taw-12, 3-5-52; Rashid, 1-0-4-0; Oastin, 30-5-22; Rikwani, 5-5-52. (Ahsan Ali, 14-4-18-3)

TEST MATCH First Innings 270 (Ahsan Ali 58)

SECOND INNINGS

Rukman-Uz-Zaman b Mele 16
 Mohan Kohn c De Mal b De Silva 7
 Salim Ali b De Mal 1
 Javed Miandad c Madugalle b De Silva 36
 Wasim Raza c Weirumbadi b D S De Silva 0
 Wajid Raza c Weirumbadi b D S De Silva 0
 Ahsan Ali not out 29
 Total 100
 Tahir Nurgash c Roy Dasa, b S De Silva 13
 Raza not out 1
 Extras (D.C., D.B) not out 11

Total 171 180

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-40, 3-132, 4-132, 5-132, 6-137, 7-174.

SCORING: Taw-12, 2-7-2-20; Rashid, 5-5-52; 1-0-4-0; Oastin, 30-5-22; Rikwani, 5-5-52; Ranasinghe, 5-5-52; 1-0-4-0; Taw-12, 3-5-52; Rashid, 1-0-4-0; Oastin, 30-5-22; Rikwani, 5-5-52.

his putter

From a Special Correspondent

Mufurlu, March 19

An unpleasant incident, involving two British tournament players, marred the second round of the Open championship here in this sweltering Zambia copper-mining town. The incident occurred and resulted in Ewen Murray, the playing professional at Walton Heath, being penalised one stroke. His 68 on the 17th green gave him a halfway total of 143, three strokes behind the joint leaders, Carl Mason, David Russell, a local, and Martin Poxon, the former Walker Cup amateur.

Murray, Ex-Scottish and world junior champion, seemed set to make a fine recovery from the incident on the 17th green in which his ball moved as he addressed it. The question which had to be decided was whether Murray had grounded his putter. The player said he was 95 per cent certain he had not but, but at the time he was in the clubhouse, his playing partner, Peter Tupling, had deleted his original entry on the card of a par four and substituted a 5.

Tupling was unhappy about being drawn into the incident but said he was not a professional. He was annoyed by Murray and considered the club grounded. Murray was upset at losing a shot but did not protest. He was being asked to play but he did not wish to be branded a cheat.

From John Ballentine, Jacksonville

The tour will get through four at the start of the second round of the Tournament Players Championship here today gave the PGA's first official endorsement. Commissioner, and Joe Black, the president of the US PGA, the opportunity to explain the introductory concept of the tour, to be called the Tournament Players Series.

The new circuit has come about as a result of a meeting recently made between the two bodies not to step on each other's toes in the manufacture, marketing or distribution of equipment and clothing. In consequence, Berman's threat to go his own way with the Tour of Champions players association has now ended and the TPA's tour reverts to its own name, the PGA Tour.

The spring tour will contest ten tournaments each with prize money of 100,000 dollars and will run from December 1963 to January 1964 and continue for at least five years. The venues have not yet been decided but it would seem that the tour would have to be in "warmer parts of the country," meaning Florida and Southern California.

At present, the top 50 money winners will automatically go into the fields for the "big" tour which begins next month. Qualifying rounds also will be joined by the 50 top finishers in the autumn qualifying school. The 50 best scorers in the school will come from the qualifying school's 50 next best scorers plus 50 players from school compe-

pact leads cuit

le, March 19

tions, 50 more from weekly qualifying contests and 50 club professionals.

It is this last category which is the strangest part of the new system, when one sees what happens to the handful of club pros who get into tournaments on "sponsors' exemptions," one wonders what chance at all these "lamb" will have among the tournament playing "wolves." One easy way of strengthening the second tour would have been to limit into it some of the first players who will finish in 126th place and beyond when this season ends.

The qualifying figure of 146 or 147 seemed likely here and Nick Faldo, who made three crucial mistakes with a new stainless steel-headed driver, three wood and three three-putted in his first round 75, made a good start today with three birdies in his first round 69, finally reaching the turn in 34.

Peter Oosterhuis, said, perhaps unwisely, after his 73, that he was "not a fairways specialist." He thought they would be. He probably changed that view after his first certain wrecked his chances at making the cut when he went out in 41 with sixes at the second and fourth holes and all other kinds of mistakes.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES (US units): 67-7, G. Nelson, L. Loft, G. Burns, 68-7, J. H. Lee, 69-8, J. H. Lee, 70-9, J. H. Lee, 71-10, J. H. Lee, 72-11, J. H. Lee, 73-12, J. H. Lee, 74-13, J. H. Lee, 75-14, J. H. Lee, 76-15, J. H. Lee, 77-16, J. H. Lee, 78-17, J. H. Lee, 79-18, J. H. Lee, 80-19, J. H. Lee, 81-20, J. H. Lee, 82-21, J. H. Lee, 83-22, J. H. Lee, 84-23, J. H. Lee, 85-24, J. H. Lee, 86-25, J. H. Lee, 87-26, J. H. Lee, 88-27, J. H. Lee, 89-28, J. H. Lee, 90-29, J. H. Lee, 91-30, J. H. Lee, 92-31, J. H. Lee, 93-32, J. H. Lee, 94-33, J. H. Lee, 95-34, J. H. Lee, 96-35, J. H. Lee, 97-36, J. H. Lee, 98-37, J. H. Lee, 99-38, J. H. Lee, 100-39, J. H. Lee, 101-40, J. H. Lee, 102-41, J. H. Lee, 103-42, J. H. Lee, 104-43, J. H. Lee, 105-44, J. H. Lee, 106-45, J. H. Lee, 107-46, J. H. Lee, 108-47, J. H. Lee, 109-48, J. H. Lee, 110-49, J. H. Lee, 111-50, J. H. Lee, 112-51, J. H. Lee, 113-52, J. H. Lee, 114-53, J. H. Lee, 115-54, J. H. Lee, 116-55, J. H. Lee, 117-56, J. H. 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Lee, 320-259, J. H. Lee, 321-260, J. H. Lee, 322-261, J. H. Lee, 323-262, J.

Tradesmen face stiff challenge

By Jim Raitliff

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race crews will leave the stage today for one of the world's greatest rowing events—the Tideway Head of the River Race (12.30) over the 44-mile championship course from Mortlake to Putney. The 50th Tideway Head has attracted 420 eights, 3,780 competitors with coxswains, and £ the wind swings against the boats. The wind will fall with so much land water adding weight to the tide.

Favourites for the tide must be the Amateur Rowing Association national squad, who start in second place with six Olympic and world silver medal winners on board supplemented by two world lightweight gold medalists. Some of the squad have been ill and much recovered on whether they have recovered.

The heavy crew, known as Tradesmen, also contains several distinguished internationals but there is a suspicion that they will not be at their best.

Next year, London University, who beat Cambridge this week, should be among the top crews and Kingston II can expect to start in 36th.

Thirty overseas crews, from West Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark and Yugoslavia take part. Five of the world Danish lightweight eight champions row at Wallingford II starting 36th.

The women's Boat Race takes place at Henley tomorrow (2.30).

By Nicholas Keith

Oxford upset the form book by taking a 3-2 lead over Cambridge after the University match foursomes yesterday. They played with grit and good sense, so the 93rd encounter in the series is finely balanced for today's ten singles.

Cambridge had a flying start, with their top two pairs winning.

it upsets the f

Form book

Oxford pair to a two hole lead. *Thea Melville*, a former Cambridge captain, showed his class

FOURSONES (Oxford names first): C Ramsey and B D Lively led to R J H Ramsell and J Prosser, 2 and 1; S P Thomas and J G Clark took to G S M Phillips and A G Edmond, 3 and 2; K R Morris and A A Barrett-Greene beat D J Wadden (capt) and S G K Twiggden, 4 and 3; A C Hodson and S D K Wily beat R M Tuckell and M R Pudney, one up; M R Butler and I M Lewis beat J C Leigh, and N A H Popen, one up.

At the official weigh-in yesterday, organized by the sponsors of the Boat Race, Ladbrokes, Oxford and Isis were heavier than their opponents. Oxford's average weight at 13st 13½lbs is exactly 10lbs heavier than Cambridge — the greatest weight advantage in 27 years. Isis have an advantage of 11½lbs over Goldie.

Today's outings: Oxford 8.30; Cambridge 9 from Putney.

Mark Wildman fought a courageous uphill battle against Rex Williams on the second day of the World Professional Final at Sutton Coldfield yesterday, Sydney Friskin writes.

He made more breaks in the third quarter of play but Williams still managed to stay comfortable ahead to maintain an advantage of about 700 points in this 3,000 point final.

When the match was resumed yesterday Williams led 1,492 to

624 with nine in play, but Williams added only two more runs. On this vital ninth-inning table Williams compiled a fine break of 199 to which Williams replied immediately with 180. Williams ended his break with a missed cannon off the top cushion; Williams with a more difficult task cannon in the same direction, standing on the table, had been set for a rousing battle. But if Williams was intense on Williams' side, Williams was soon frustrated by Williams' recovered more ground with a fine break of 117.

Williams continued in convincing Williams, but there followed a difficult and somewhat unproductive period for both players as Williams' balls were too high to be cleaned by the referee. Apparently the run of the balls was not quite true because they were too high to be cleaned. The best that Williams could do was to supplement his early runs with breaks of 56 and 70. Williams' last break was 57, with useful breaks of 74, 53, and 57.

Hockey

The England squad begin the first of a new series of training weekends this weekend at Bisham Abbey to prepare for international matches later in the year, Sydney Friskin writes. The training will be completed with two matches tomorrow, the first against Southgate (starting 11.15 am) and the second in the afternoon against the South.

For Southgate, the match will be a useful exercise for next weekend, when they play Houn-

national club championships. Six members of the Southgate team, Batchelor, Craig, Dodds, Driver, Dutbie and Kerly are in the England squad, from which three familiar faces will be missing. Brookeman and Khehar have retired from international hockey and a newcomer does not wish to be considered for the next six months. Mallett and Kerly are back, and Spray from Marlborough gets his chance.

John Hurst, England's reserve goalkeeper, who plays for St Albans, will probably be at Bisham Abbey and not at

final of the East Club championship tomorrow.

Robin Fletcher, president of the Hockey Association, has announced he will not stand for reelection after 1983.

□ England's women play the Netherlands at Wembley. It is the fourth encounter in the stadium between them. Netherlands won the last 2 - 0. The pitch may have the last word today, with recent rainfall having done nothing to improve the hard-worked grass.

Ice hockey

After watching Hungary in practice, Lawrie Lovell was expecting to see a Robert Pryce writes. After eight minutes of the opening game of the European Junior Championships between Hungary and Great Britain, he was wrong. Great Britain have just taken a 3-1 lead over the pre-tournament favourites. "We were out of sync," said Lovell, the British coach. "They must have got a surprise".

The Hungarians overcame the surprise by scoring the damage was done by their predatory first line - Hudak (3), Koger (2) and Pestl (1).

The surprise was well 8-4. Most of the scoring from a pass by Hand and finished Britain's best move of the game for a last period consolation.

Hand, at 14, the youngest player in the team, made it 2-0 by tipping in a McCaffrey pass. After Pryce's pass carried him over of defence to the blue line, he scored the third.

Craig Virgin, winner of the last two world cross country titles, has lost his chance of the third, Norman Fox writes. The American has pulled out of Sunday's

SKIING CO

	Depth (cm)	U	Piste
Andermatt	140	360	Good
Good powder on north facing slope			
Crans-Montana	150	230	Good
New snow on good base			
Felie	205	530	Good
Good skiers			

Gödd	skating everywhere			
Isola	2000	150	185	Good
	Some powder	off-piste runs		
Kitzbühel	100	230		Good
	New snow on wet base			
Val d'Isère	165	285		Powd
	Excellent skiing conditions			
Wengen	60	190		Good
	Excellent piste skiing			

In the above reports, supplied by reporters in Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U has been received from a tourist board in Norway

	Depth (cm)		State of Piste	Weather	°C
	L	U			
Finke	150	Good			
Galt					
Oslo					

The United States Sun has a formidable team for the 3.45 A.M. the Hippodrome Capannelle race track. Alberto Salazar, the world's fastest marathon runner, becomes favourite, although there is New Zealander, Rod Dixon is in impressive form.

Heavy rain and today's horse racing over parts of the 12-kilometre course should help the north Europeans but no runner from the home countries is likely to win especially now that David Moorcroft, of England, has

States' players will give the United States' their strongest team rivalry provided they take account of some last-minute changes to the schedule. When leading the field, six of their team stopped with a lap to go but still won the team event.

Rugby League

The most gruelling time of the season has arrived. Widnes and Hull face exciting tests of their strength and stamina in the strengths during the remaining two months of the season. Keith Macklin writes: Widnes are top of the league and have won the Challenge Cup semi-finalists. Hull lie third in the Championship and are also in the Cup semi-finals.

Widnes have much the harder task tomorrow, after two demanding struggles against the Red and Northern Area sides. The first of the Cup, they entertain Hull Kingston Rovers, who are in fourth place. While

objective after being dismissed from the Cup. They want to salvage a thin season by their standards by winning the championship or premiership or both.

CONDITIONS

Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Off Pistle	Good	Fair	+2
Powder	Good	Fine	-2
Spring	Good	Fine	-2

Heavy	Good	Cloud	0
Heavy	Good	Cloud	0
Good	—	Fine	0
Varied	Good	Fine	+1

representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain to upper slopes. The following report is:

Lillehammer	160	Icey	0
Norway	130	Good	0
	120	Wet	-1
	160	Good	-1
	150	Good	-1
	120	Good	-1

CALCUTTA—Indian Open, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72
156.1 Shintaro (Japan) 69, 87, 140, 140, 140
157.1 Kawada (Japan) 69, 72, 141, 141, 141
(Taiwan) 72, 68; Hsu Sheng-San (Taiwan) 70,
70; K Hen (Burma) 69, 71; 141, 141, M-Aye
(Burma) 71, 70; L Collins (US) 71, 70; R
Arrino (US) 69, 72; 142, P Dink (Brazil) 69,
73; T Tanaka (Japan) 72, 71; R Foreign
(Japan) 70, 72; K Cor (US) 70, 71; Heng
Wang-Heng (Taiwan) 69, 73.—Reader

LAS VEGAS UPGA tournament. First round
leaders: 69, J. Clark, A. Fitzmor, 70; N.
Lopez-Melton, 71; S. Little, P. Bradley, A.
Miller, S. Haynie, 72; B. Laver, K. Whitcomb, P.
Sheehan, J. Colles.

WOMEN'S TOUR: Earnings: 71, J. Corser
\$48,960, 72, S. Little \$48,336, 73, J. M. Sher-

[illegible]

SWIMMING
TOLDOUSE. 50m freestyle: J. Woods (GB) 22.74sec (European record).

SPEED SKATING
MOSCOW. 5,000m: A. Baranov (USSR) 54.06sec (World record).

SKING
KRANJSKA GORA, (Yugoslavia): Men's slalom. Giant slalom: 1. P. Mahrer (FR) 1:14.53 sec. 2. H. A. K. (FR) 1:15.14. 3. Gardelle (Luxembourg) 1:15.26. Slalom: P. Mahrer (USA) 304 pts. 2. 1. Stenmark (SWE) 210. 3. S. Mahrer (USA) 177.

NORDIC SKIING
STORSEN.

Scotland won the British women's indoor bowls semi-finals 1-0 in shots after Wales after England beat Ireland 160-75 at Harrogate on Thursday. Wales, champions for the past two years, were beaten 116-114 by England in their first match of the round this week.



George Mann: a word of sympathy for South Africa

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

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UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVENTURE

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SEASONAL SALE

At the 'Sloop' we have a seasonal sale of all our summer clothing. The sale is open from 1st to 7th June. Please call 01-338 5898 for more information.

DEATHS

ADAMS—On 17th March, 1982, William John Adams, of 10, St. James's Place, London, died at the age of 78. He was a well-known figure in the community and is survived by his wife and three children. The funeral will be held on 19th March at 11.00 a.m. at St. James's Church. Please call 01-338 5898 for more information.

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EAST ANGLIA

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Edited by Peter Davalle

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TUC seeks to block Howe's jobless scheme

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The TUC is to use its influence on the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) in an attempt to resist the government's plan for a community works scheme for the long-term unemployed.

The three TUC members of the commission have been briefed to argue at a meeting tomorrow that the scheme, announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Budget speech, has a number of serious implications adverse to the interests of trade unions and unemployed people.

A Congress House report on the plan suggests that despite the government's declaration that participation will be voluntary, ministers may be intending eventually to withhold benefits from unemployed people who do not take part.

The TUC also claims that the project, which is seen as providing 100,000 places at a cost of £150m, will be developed to "discuss terms and conditions determined by collective bargaining" and to provide "a cheap adult labour force for employers to exploit".

The discussion of the plan comes as the MSC, employers and trade unions are talking about a replacement for the much criticised Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP), which will swallow up the lion's share of government expenditure on employment measures.

An MSC task group held a conference on Saturday at the Civil Service College at Sunningdale, Berkshire, to discuss the Government's plans for a compulsory scheme for jobless school-leavers, aged 16, who would be paid £15 a week.

MSC officials have made clear that they favour a more comprehensive programme, covering those aged 17 as well, which would incorporate a total training package, including further education, apprenticeships, skills training and work experience.

Government wants to see a new programme ready for next year to replace YOP, and further meetings of the task group, comprising MSC officials and both sides of industry, are to be held shortly to solve problems in the total training package.

The MSC will have to convince the Government that the scheme is good value.

for the approximate £1,000m annual cost, and there are also legal difficulties in creating a new status of "trainees" for young people.

The Congress House report on the long-term unemployed scheme was approved last week by the TUC's employment policy and organization committee, chaired by Mr William Keys, one of the three TUC commissioners, all of whom will make their opposition clear when the commission debates the government proposals tomorrow.

The other two are Mr Kenneth Baker and Mr Kenneth Graham.

The TUC argues that the community works project will create a divisive two-tier level of special provision for unemployed adults by paying them about £30 a week, including expenses, compared with wages of up to £89 a week in the Community Enterprise programme.

Payments would be unattractive, the TUC claims, because the Government would be inviting the adult unemployed to work on a community project for their unemployment benefit and a refund of expenses they incurred.

The confidential TUC paper also expresses concern that the Government is expecting local councils, as well as voluntary organizations and churches, to run community projects with volunteers from the unemployed.

It is said to be a "substitution of voluntary workers for properly recruited and paid staff in public and community services".

The TUC complains that the Government has refused to double the number of Community Enterprise programme places to 60,000, and urges the MSC to formulate proposals for improving provisions to the long-term unemployed.

In a letter to Sir Richard O'Brien, chairman, on March 9, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said that the Government fully shared concern about the plight of the long-term unemployed.

Explaining the Chancellor's announcement, Tebbit added: "Many people have pointed to the absurdity of the situation in which many people registered as unemployed would be willing to do something useful



Warm hands join to defend the peace

Wood fires were essential to keep warm and dry last night as women anti-nuclear demonstrators began a 24-hour blockade of the Royal Air Force base at Greenham Common, near Newbury, Berkshire, in protest against the proposed siting of American cruise missiles. Groups of women took it in turn to sit down in the roadway, blocking the six entrance gates to the base (Peter Waymark writes).

Ms Lesley Boulton, one of the organizers, said the action was

intended to be peaceful and the women had been instructed not to resist arrest. She added that they would not try to stop children attending the American school at the base or to prevent emergency services getting through.

The protest was organized by members of a women's peace camp which was established outside the main entrance at Greenham Common last September. Some 15 women have been living there in tents and caravans. The blockade

was the climax to a festival of life at the base attended by nuclear disarmament supporters from as far afield as Scotland, Yorkshire and South Wales. Thames Valley police estimated the attendance at 5,000. Many arrived in coaches and brought babies and young children.

Throughout the day the six entrances to the base were the focus of activities including religious worship, music and dancing and poetry readings.

I did it for Britain, Mrs Whitehouse says

By Richard Evans

Protecting Britain's image abroad was one of the main reasons for Mrs Mary Whitehouse's private prosecution against the director of *Four Romans in Britain*, she said yesterday.

She reaffirmed that she does not know where she will obtain the money to pay her legal costs, which are said to run to thousands of pounds.

The trial of Mr Michael Bogdanov, the play's director, on charges of procuring and being party to a simulated act of homosexual rape between actors in the play, ended on Thursday after the Attorney General had intervened.

"The key point to what I did is that this was the

National Theatre... the theatre that belongs to all of us, which gives an image of Britain to the whole world. "I love Britain I care for what the world thinks about Britain. I do not want the world to look at what happens on the National Theatre stage and say 'Good Heavens, the British really now are in a state where they can do that on the National stage, and nobody cares'. I do care. That is why I did what I did," she said.

Mrs Whitehouse, who was interviewed on the BBC radio programme, *Sunday*, said she was not worried about the money that would be needed to pay the legal costs of her prosecution.

The hidden dangers of high blood pressure

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Between 15 and 20 per cent of adults in Britain may have high blood pressure, but because it is symptomless they are often unaware of it, a book published today says. Adults should be encouraged to have regular blood pressure checks, and machines to register blood pressure could usefully be installed in stores, airports and railway stations, it suggests.

Doctors and patients should work closely together on treatment because some drugs which control blood pressure have unpleasant side-effects, so it may be necessary to experiment with several until a suitable one is found.

The book's authors, Dr Eoin O'Brien and Professor Kevin O'Malley, codirectors of the blood pressure clinic at the Charitable Infirmary, Dublin, suggest that finding the right drug may take four or five visits. But it is worth persevering because proper and continuous treatment greatly reduces the risk of strokes and heart attacks.

Changes in life-style are also recommended. Giving up smoking is the most important, followed by weight watching and avoiding excess salt in the diet.

High Blood Pressure: What It Means For You And How To Control It (Martin Dunitz, £2.50).

NEWS IN SUMMARY

BR to run Coniston service

The National Trust's 1895 steam yacht, *Gondola*, which it restored in 1980 for more than £100,000, is to be operated on Coniston Water this year by British Rail Sealink.

Mr Laurence Harwood, the trust's regional director, said yesterday that because of heavy losses incurred by the trust in running the service for two seasons, it either had to get another organization to run it or shut down.

Sealink will manage it for a year, during which time a five-year agreement will be worked out. British Rail will carry any losses, but will share half of any profits with the trust. "We shall still own the vessel," Mr Harwood said.

Mr Glyn Morgan, Windermere's Sealink manager, said an hourly service would start in April 28.

Plea for prison library funds

The Isle of Wight County Council has told the Home Office Prison Department that unless it increases the funds for library services in the three island prisons, the present facilities may be withdrawn.

A council report says the services at Parkhurst, Albany and Camp Hill prisons cost the island four times as much as its Home Office allowance.

Raiders set fire to mansion

Burglars who stole thousands of pounds of antiques early yesterday from a seveneenth-century mansion, Rudd Hall, near Catterick, North Yorkshire, set fire to the house as they left (our York Correspondent writes).

The house was the home of the late Lt-Col. Charles Tyson and his widow, Mrs Connie Tyson, who is aged 88 and lives in a private nursing home. Two rooms were badly damaged and paintings and furniture destroyed.

Crane victim named

A man who died when he was trapped in the cab of a crane which fell into the Manchester Ship Canal on Saturday was named yesterday as Mr Leon Clowes, aged 36, of Northern Rise, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. He was married.

Laker plan 'would have failed'

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

Sir Freddie Laker would not have got the licences for a People's airline for which he suddenly withdrew his application on Friday, airline experts believe, had he not already written off the venture, though not the man, for the foreseeable future.

It was not just that the application by Breathe, Laker's shell company, was short of essential financial information, it lacked the necessary assets to be taken seriously at this stage.

One official commented yesterday: "In order to grant an air operator's certificate, the Civil Aviation Authority needs to satisfy itself that the applicant's staff and equipment meet the necessary standards. Breathe have neither aircraft nor staff, nor an operating base." Laker's maintenance hangars at Gatwick were taken over by British Caledonian recently.

But the CAA's hearing on May 4 will go ahead despite the withdrawal of Breathe's application for Laker's former scheduled licences to New York, Los Angeles, Florida, Zurich, and Hong Kong, and his charter licences to Canada and Europe.

The purpose is to hear British Caledonian's application for Laker Airways to pick up all Laker's traffic. But British Caledonian has its hands too

Affiliation goes to Nalgo poll

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The Electoral Reform Society today starts the ballot process that will decide whether 800,000-strong National and Local Government Officers' Association, the country's fourth largest union, affiliates to the Labour Party.

Union members will probably not receive their ballot papers until early next week, when they are distributed at branch level. Each member of the "town hall" union has a secret postal vote.

Campaigning on the affiliation issue has been going on in the union since last year's annual conference sanctioned the ballot, but supporters and opponents both agree about a lack of interest among traditionally moderate Nalgo members.

In spite of the apparent apathy, both groups agree that it is virtually certain the union members will decide against affiliation. Mr James White, Nalgo executive member and secretary of Fight for Labour Affiliation Group (Flag), said last night: "Anyone who imagines that on the first ballot we are going to succeed would have to be a raging optimist".

Mr White, who is one of more than 20 executive members supporting affiliation, said the aim was to keep the issue alive among

the membership in the hope that a future ballot would produce an affirmative vote. Meetings of branches in traditional militant Scottish regions, called to discuss affiliation, have been well attended, while other meetings of large branches such as Kent county have attracted only a handful of members.

The ballot will cost the union about £70,000 and Mr Michael Blick, an opponent of affiliation, last night described it as "one of the highest and most expensive non-events in the history of the union".

Mr Blick, who is chairman of the union's national local government committee covering about 500,000 town hall staff, left the Labour Party last year to join the SDP, but he has been mainly campaigning against the principle of affiliation rather than against forging links with the Labour Party.

Supporters of affiliation claim there is a greater awareness that jobs are disappearing from local government because of central government policies they are not able to influence.

Voting is due to be completed on April 23 and the results will be announced on May 8.

SMOKERS OBJECT TO BR BAN

By a Staff Reporter

British Rail is banning smoking in almost all its restaurants and buffet cars after a successful six-month experiment in the Western Region. Passengers who break the rule will be liable to be fined £50 and stewards are being asked to report anyone who ignores the ban. Some reserved seats will be exempt.

The decision was criticized yesterday by the Freedom Organization for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (FOREST), which accused Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, of acting in an intolerant and patronizing manner.

Mr Stephen Eyres, director of (Forest) said: "This is part of British Rail's step by step approach to eliminate all smoking on the railways. A British Rail spokesman said yesterday: "We are following a trend. Sixty per cent of our customers are non-smokers

CHILDREN HAVE LESS TO SPEND

By a Staff Reporter

The recession is affecting children's pocket money, according to a survey conducted by Gallup for T. Wall and Sons, the ice cream company.

The average weekly pocket money for Britain's 10 million children has fallen by 16 per cent from £1.13 last year to less than 95p. Children in the north and Scotland have been most affected, seeing their average pocket money drop by 34 per cent from £1.18 to less than 79p.

Wall's has produced a pocket money monitor for the last eight years, and says that the 1982 survey is the first to show a fall.

Children in the south, like their parents, seem to be more affluent than those in the rest of Britain. Their weekly allowance has fallen by only 4 per cent, from £1.14 to £1.09 overall, the survey says, boys receive less than their sisters or girl friends.

An earlier origin for stone tools

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

The world's earliest stone tools are now known to be between two and a half and three million years old, on the evidence of recent work in Ethiopia. They may well have been made by an early species of hominid called *Australopithecus africanus*, but they could also have been the work of an early type of man, *Homo habilis*.

No man-made tools have been found at hominid sites dating to before three million years ago, but after 2.5 million years ago stone and bone tools are "permanent and numerous", according to Dr Yves Coppens, of the Musée de l'Homme in Paris.

In a review of "Who Made What", presented at the Prehistoric Society yesterday, he said that on present evidence *Australopithecus africanus* existed between 2.7 and one million years ago, and had modern legs but archaic upper limbs: they could walk upright, but not manipulate objects as well as later humans.

Homo habilis could now be placed even earlier, however, on the basis of recent work by Dr Coppens and his colleagues. The Hadar region of north-east Ethiopia, and the fragmentary remains from Kanopoi in Kenya.

With an apparent beginning four million years ago, *Homo habilis*, originally dubbed "handy man" because of the fully human grip that he possessed, is an even better candidate for the first toolmaker.

The coeval hominid defined by Dr Coppens, Dr Donald Johanson and Dr Tim White in 1978 as *Australopithecus afarensis*, of which the partial skeleton known as "Lucy" is the best known specimen, should be assigned to a "pre-*Australopithecus*" status because of its archaic limb structure, Dr Coppens now feels.

The early tools from the Shungura Formation, on the Omo River in southern Ethiopia, first found in 1969, can be placed firmly between Member B of the formation, dated to three million years ago, and to a level higher than Member E at 2.2 million years. These are the tools that Dr Coppens feels "may have been made by *Australopithecus africanus*" or by *Homo habilis*.

Other tools have also been pushed back in time by recent work: the more developed Oldoway industry has been dated to 2.6 million years at Hadar, a million years earlier than its initial placement.

THE ADVERTISERS IN THIS WEEK'S RADIO TIMES MAY NOT BE HOME AND DRY. BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE HOME.

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Radio Times

For further information contact Head of Advertisement Department, BBC Publications, 35 Marlborough High Street, London W1M 4AA. Telephone: 01-580 5577.

*Source: NRS (IICNARS) October 1980-September 1981

*Source: ABC July-December 1981

NEWS IN SUMMARY

No damages in tampon case win

Denver, Colorado. — An 18-year old girl who suffered toxic shock syndrome through tampons has won her case against the manufacturer but failed to receive the \$25m (£14m) she claimed as compensation and punitive damages.

A federal jury ruled that the Procter and Gamble company was negligent in its manufacture and sale of a defective product but it awarded no money or medical expenses to Miss Deletha Dawn Lampshire.

The jury said the company had not breached its warranty on its Rely brand tampons which were withdrawn from the market in September 1980, and could not be held for damages.

Malta and Libya improve links

Valletta. — Malta and Libya have ratified their 1976 agreement to take their offshore oil exploration dispute to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

The agreement was a result of the unexpected meeting between Colonel Gaddafi and Mr Don Mintoff ten days ago, which eased the strained relations between the two governments which have existed since 1980. Trade and diplomatic relations are now expected to return to normal.

New bones find in Antarctica

Washington. — Scientists have discovered the first bones of a land mammal in Antarctica, the National Science Foundation said, strengthening the evidence that South America and Antarctica were linked in prehistoric times.

The foundation, which finances and manages American scientific activities in Antarctica, said that the bones of a rat-like mammal were found in a graveyard of strange prehistoric skeletons, which included those of 6ft penguins, a 40ft plesiosaur, a marine reptile, and a mosasaur, a lizard with paddle-like limbs.

Seven killed in south Lebanon

Sidon. — At least seven people have been killed and 10 injured in clashes between rival militias in the Southern Village of Ayn Qana, travellers said. Security sources said the hostilities were between the Amad Shiite muslim paramilitary organization and supporters of the pro-Iraq Baath Party.

Schmidt's party Loses heavily in Saxony poll

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 21

Herr Helmut Schmidt's strident Social Democrats (SPD) suffered severe losses in today's lower Saxony Land elections, seen here as an important test of West Germany's political mood.

The first results showed that the Christian Democrats, who hope to take over from the chancellor's frayed 12-year-old coalition as soon as possible, were heading for an absolute majority.

The Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) who fell below the 5 per cent minimum needed for representation last time, seemed assured of seats in the new parliament while the ecological Green Party also looks likely to be represented.

The first computer forecasts, based on about one third of the voting districts, forecast a loss of around 6 per cent for the Chancellor's party, from 42 per cent to 36.3 per cent. The Christian Democrats, who last time polled 48.7 per cent, won around 51 per cent, so that they will be able to rule without a coalition partner. The Free Democrats were said to have gained more than 2 per cent to achieve 6.7 per cent and the Greens were also up by nearly 2 per cent to 5.7 per cent.

The result could well encourage the Free Democrats to think even harder about leaving the Social Democrats and moving over to form a coalition with the Christian Democrats in Bonn. Political observers have predicted that they could even take the step this year rather than wait for the next Bundestag elections in 1984.

The Lower Saxony poll is the first of four Land elections this year whose results could affect the future of Herr Schmidt's Government.

Apart from the severe psychological blow to the Social Democrats, it could also mean serious trouble for the SPD-FDP coalition in Bonn. The Lower Saxony Christian Democrats could use their vote in the Bundestag, the upper house in Bonn, to block an early increase in value added tax needed to finance the Government's job creation scheme.

The VAT increase was agreed on with great difficulty by the coalition parties and it will be extremely hard for them to find another solution acceptable to both.

The results also amount to a huge personal victory for Herr Ernst Albrecht, the popular and successful Lower Saxony Prime Minister, and will strengthen his position as a rival to Herr Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democrat Party chairman, as a future Chancellor.

The results appear to confirm the trend that the SPD are losing the votes of younger people to the Greens and other alternative groups.



Mount St Helens erupts twice in six hours

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, March 21

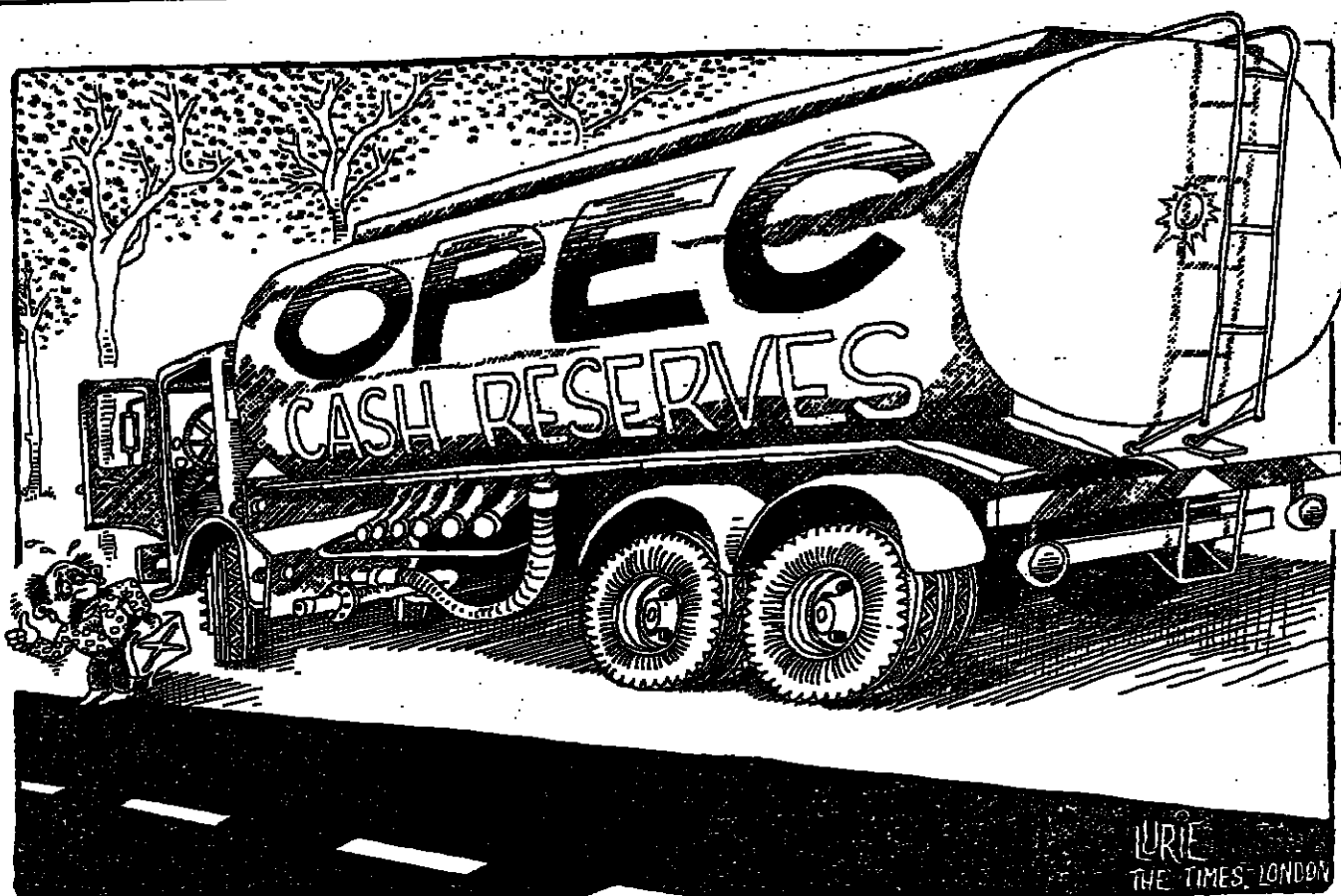
After two eruptions of Mount St Helens within six hours, scientists today planned to take a helicopter into the smoldering crater in Vancouver, Washington, to try to estimate how much longer the volcano will continue to throw out ashes.

After the volcano exploded with its second blast of gas and ash yesterday morning, the scientists made an inspection of the crater but dense steam, rising to about 2,500ft, made it impossible to confirm reports of new growth on the crater's lava dome.

Mr Bill Chadwick, of the United States geological survey team said after a visit to the site: "I think, overall this is somewhat in between the explosive eruptions in 1980 and the non-explosive eruptions in 1981."

He said scientists were "in the dark" until they got a look at the dome and saw what happened. It could take until Tuesday before they could answer with confidence, he added.

Mount St Helens erupted in May, 1980, claiming 61 lives. After the last two eruptions, officials fearing that heat from the volcano might cause a rapid melting of snow and serious flooding, ordered the evacuation of more than 70 families living along the Toutle river, north of the volcano.



Central America flashpoint

Duarte pledge on murdered news team

San Salvador, March 21. — President José Napoleón Duarte has promised to investigate personally the killing of four Dutch journalists on March 17.

He said that he believed an Army report that they died in a clash between left-wing guerrillas and security forces, but he would go to the scene of the killing to conduct his own inquiries. He invited journalists to accompany him.

President Duarte said it was difficult to guarantee the safety of anyone in a country at war — especially journalists who constantly crossed sides. He said that reporters were as much in danger with guerrillas as with the security forces because no one was safe when the two sides shot at each other.

Three Brazilian journalists who said they were shot at by soldiers on Friday left the country yesterday, saying they were frightened to stay.

The President also said that intelligence reports indicated that the guerrillas planned to intensify their activities from Wednesday in an attempt to disrupt the elections next Sunday.

Guerrillas yesterday attacked the town of Triunfo in Usulután, 75 miles east of San Salvador. They killed two civil defence guards and set fire to the town hall, several houses and buses before fleeing, according to military sources.

Guerrillas also cut the important coastal road 50 miles from San Salvador, delaying traffic for several hours. The coastal road and the Pan-American Highway are the only roads running the length of El Salvador.

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Shuttle off today on big venture for science

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

The third flight of Columbia, the reusable American spacecraft, is due to start from Cape Canaveral at 3pm British time today. Although strictly speaking it is another test flight for the new vehicle, the crew of Colonel Jack Lousma, the mission commander, and his pilot, Colonel Charles Smith, have on board a 21st cargo of scientific equipment.

It consists of none instrument packages designed to yield important data for astronomers, biologists, medical scientists and plasma physicists and for engineers paving the way for future scientific journeys in orbit.

The plan is for a seven-day flight, the longest so far, with a landing at White Sands, New Mexico. The original landing site in California cannot be used because of flooding in the heavy rains.

Another innovation is the first use of the mechanical arm, built in Canada, for lifting a package of experimental apparatus out of the orbiter and into space. The long-term usefulness of the shuttle depends to a large extent on the success of this manipulator arm. So at 44 hours of work is beginning with the arm unloaded to give the crew experience in controlling its robot-like movements.

The practical application, lasting about 14 hours, will involve maneuvering the group of instruments called the plasma diagnostic package. What that apparatus will do is measure how the orbiter spacecraft interacts with its surroundings in space.

The document revealed for the first time that the Administration believed that the Papal airfield, northwest of Managua, had been used for storing and storing arms. The Airfield has been extended from a small agricultural strip to a runway 3,600 ft long, with three parking aprons and six storage hangars.

The paper also describes what is identified as the Salvadorean guerrilla command and control centre, near Managua. It said the headquarters were extremely sophisticated, and coordinated logistical support for the guerrillas throughout El Salvador.

Managua: Government forces arrested and expelled at least 19 Jehovah's Witnesses on Saturday. Relatives in the United States were told by American consular officials that they had been flown to either Panama or Costa Rica (AP reports).

The American Embassy in Managua said it was investigating, and had asked the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry for an explanation.

Guatemala City: Twenty-nine bodies, almost all with bullet wounds and signs of torture, were found in various parts of Guatemala in the last 24 hours (Reuters reports).

Police said that villagers discovered the bullet-riddled bodies of 11 Indians in a common grave in a deep ravine near the western Guatemalan town of Chimaltenango.

Another 12 corpses, some with slit throats and showing signs of torture as well as gunshot wounds, were found by local authorities in San Antonio in the south-eastern province of Suchitepéquez. Police said that the dead were identified as peasants from the Pacific coast.

Rome: The Pope today recalled the murder of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero in El Salvador two years ago, and prayed for a peaceful solution to that country's problems (AP reports).

"March 24 will be the second anniversary of the death of Romero a defenceless victim The Pope said.

Launch on TV

Independent Television News plans to show a recording of the shuttle launch at 4.14 pm today, 74 minutes after the planned take-off time. In the event of an emergency, however, the ITN pictures may be shown earlier. The BBC also plans to interrupt its normal programmes for the launch.

space. Measurements will be made of electric and magnetic fields within 45ft of the vehicle, the characteristics of electromagnetic waves will be recorded over a broad range of frequencies, and so will the characteristics of an electron beam produced by a special electron gun called a fast pulse generator.

The timetable for operating the robot arm allows 23 hours for thermal testing. On this mission the spacecraft will be exposed to extremes of temperature which have been avoided on previous journeys.

The spacecraft will be subjected to temperatures ranging from 93 degrees centigrade to minus 66 degrees. Under these conditions the hull of Columbia is expected to heat, like a car, about two degrees along its entire length. This is because the vehicle will be extremely hot on one side facing the sun, and bitterly cold on the side in shadow.

In addition to the large scientific payload planned by the Office of Space Science, and hence called OSSA, Columbia has a cylindrical canister, created by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for a new scheme dubbed the "getaway special programme". It is intended to attract more customers to acquire space for their cargo on future flights.

The canister will allow anyone to fly an experiment on the shuttle orbiter, provided the experiment is of a scientific research and development nature.



Tricky question: President Duarte of El Salvador facing a press conference on Saturday. He promised protection for journalists, but refused to guarantee their safety if they travel with the guerrillas.

Extremists climb aboard the Treurnicht wagon

From Michael Hornsby, Pretoria, March 21

The extreme right wing figure to pledge support for Dr Treurnicht at yesterday's rally was Dr Connie Mulder, the disgraced former Information Minister and one-time contender for the premiership. He came to the platform to announce to cheers that his small National Conservative Party, which like the ENP has no parliamentary seats, would be merging with Dr Treurnicht's new party.

Two other small far-right groups also allied themselves with Dr Treurnicht: the Aksie Eie Toekoms (Action Own Future), led by Professor Alkmaar Swart, which advocates the creation of a white "homeland" from the economically most viable parts of South Africa from which all blacks would be banished, and the little-known South Africa First campaign, an English-speaking group led by Mr Brendan Wimmer.

Scattered among the audience were also members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, an openly fascist, paramilitary organisation, consciously modelled on the Nazi party, which advocates seizure of power by military force failing success by the ballot box.

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On March 25, 1957 the European Economic Communities were created with the signing of the Treaty of Rome. This is the first of three articles from Ian Murray in Brussels to mark their first quarter century.

The European Communities celebrate their twenty-fifth anniversary this week with about as much enthusiasm as a befeater in a vegetarian restaurant. A minor poster campaign, a few seminars and a jubilee dinner for a couple of hundred celebrities are all there are to mark a quarter of a century of joint European endeavour.

It is embarrassing that the anniversary comes at a time when Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, has just felt himself obliged to warn Europe that it is in danger and when politicians in most member states have been facing p to what they call the worst crisis the EEC has ever known.

Embarrassing though it may be, it is nevertheless appropriate and typical that Europe should be in crisis as it marks up its silver jubilee. To judge by its newspaper image the EEC stumbles from one crisis to the next.

It is, however, true that crisis has, so far, often been creative. Many of the main political initiatives have been taken with the crisis-grip pointed at members heads. As Lord Carrington sadly pointed out last year when he was President of the Council: "Europe only ever takes decisions at the last possible moment."

That has been throbproblem which has dogged the Community from its inception: it is not something which arrived an years ago with Britain. As the 1968 general report complained: "It is unacceptable that important problems should remain unsolved for years on end. There is nothing to be gained by retarding or blocking decisions which will eventually have to be adopted anyway."

All this loss of time has been to no purpose and has profited nobody, and it would have been better to see that at the start rather than at the end. Can it be hoped that the lesson of these experiences will not be completely wasted in the years ahead?

If Europe is in crisis today, it is precisely because member states have not learnt the lesson of those experiences and continue to refuse to face the facts. It is because usually solve a major problem is to have a crisis first to concentrate minds. That crisis is always one of

EEC silver jubilee

Why the champagne is flat

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 21

identity, with one or more of the members unwilling to subordinate tangible national interest to the ethereal Community spirit.

Britain is at the centre of the current crisis, and in a way has been at the centre of many of the most difficult crises which Europe has created for itself. The history of the first 25 years of the EEC can be viewed as the battle for the body and soul of Britain. The body was won ten years ago when Britain joined. The battle for the soul is continuing, with British reluctance to pay up and shut up the biggest irritant.

The economic arguments for Britain staying in are well known. Statistics show that United Kingdom trade with EEC partners now accounts for 43 per cent of total exports and provides work for 2 million people. Negotiating replacement trade agreements would be difficult if not impossible.

There are rival statistics and arguments, but there are essentially irrelevant. Even orthodox Labour Party stalwarts admit privately that it would take a three-figure majority at the next election to make Britain out, and there is no other party in Parliament with any intention of leaving.

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...and their sparkling new approach to clothes. Left: DAKS suit in pure new wool, £165. DAKS shirt and tie, £38 and £14.50. Her pullover £75 and bermuda shorts £49, blouse £45. All by Escada, sizes 10-16.

Above right: frilled dress with horizontal pattern, £189; striped dress with sash, £165. Both by Dejavu, sizes 8-14.

Below right: her Invertere raincoat comes in almond green, cream or pale grey, £75, his in grey or lavat, £79.

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KEEP IT local

Polish journalist braves arrest to attack ban

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 21

Mr Stefan Bratkowski, one of Poland's leading journalists and a prominent Marxist reformer, emerged from hiding this weekend and promptly attacked the decision of the martial law authorities to dissolve the Polish journalists' association.

Mr Bratkowski's appearance after over three months of moving from flat to flat to avoid detention (though it is still not clear whether there is a warrant for his arrest) comes at a time of intense controversy over the role of journalists in Poland.

As president of the association during the Solidarity era in 1980-1981, Mr Bratkowski helped to shape it into one of the most radical reformist organizations, constantly urging the authorities to ease censorship and democratize society.

However, the martial law authorities announced on Saturday that they had dissolved the association because some of its leaders "openly sided with undertakings of extremist anti-socialist groupings, going so far as to publish tendentious accusations levelled against state authority".

This is partly a reference to articles that Mr Bratkowski has managed to smuggle out to the West since martial law was imposed. The dissolution came after an obviously orchestrated two-week campaign, during which Communist Party journalists on a Poznan newspaper, on *Trybuna Ludu*, the party daily, and from television sought the scrapping of the association.

Mr Bratkowski, in a statement made available to *The Times* and another Western reporter, described the dissolution of the union as "the crowning blow in the series of unjustified and illegal repressive actions directed at our profession over the past few months".

Journalists were being subjected to a humiliating process of political vetting, Mr Bratkowski said. The association had, he said, fought against "the brutal exploitation of the mass media as a crude instrument of propaganda".

"Today, those in power have again made propaganda into a crisis-generating element in our society. They are trying to do it through us, the journalists and thus destroy the credibility that we managed to build up for the mass media over the past year".

The statement was signed by other leading journalists, including Mr Machiej Szumowski, ousted editor of the *Cracow* party daily.

The decision to dissolve the association has bitterly divided the Polish journalistic community which, along with judges and university teachers, has been one of the most vulnerable under martial law. But Mr Bratkowski has been able to do little more than appeal to his colleagues not to cooperate with any new, neutered journalists' union.

Not to join the new union may well mean journalists being denied jobs and livelihoods, something likely to undermine resistance.

Both sides of the journalistic community — those who support martial law and those who want to continue criticizing it — are due to meet on Tuesday. Mr Bratkowski, though he still evidently fears the possibility of being detained, is expected to attend and argue the case for a press that is relatively independent of Communist Party control.

Mr Bratkowski originally supported the policies of Mr Stanislaw Kania, the former party chief and General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the current leader. However, after a clash between militia and Solidarity in Bydgoszcz a year ago, he and other journalists grew more critical. Eventually, some weeks before martial law was declared, he was thrown out of the Communist Party and the authorities tried briefly to create an alternative journalist union. Both bodies were suspended after December 13.

Sitar and science for Gandhi

By David Cross

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, arrived in London last night for a five-day visit which she hopes will help to foster a better relationship with her country's former colonial masters.

Certainly the occasion for her visit, the opening of a seven-month celebration of India's cultural heritage, should help to focus attention on the positive rather than the negative aspects of the long ties between the two countries. Mrs Gandhi hopes that the many exhibitions showing the arts, sciences and other disciplines will help to make India better understood by the British.

The visit begins with several hours of talks between Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher. The Festival of India is to be launched with a concert at the Festival Hall to be attended by both Prime Ministers.

The programme will include the European premiere of Ravi Shankar's second concerto for the sitar played by the composer. The concert will be followed by a British Government reception.

Tomorrow after talks with Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Gandhi will visit a number of exhibitions, including a permanent biographical exhibition of Nehru and a show mainly of sculptures and paintings from the third century BC to the nineteenth century at the Hayward Gallery.

On Wednesday, after a press conference, Mrs Gandhi will lunch with the Queen and open a Science in India exhibition at the Science Museum in Kensington.

Thursday and most of Friday will be spent in private.

□ Delhi: A powerful Soviet military delegation has completed a week's visit here, leaving the impression that Moscow is keen to continue as the leading arms supplier to a less-than-eager India.

The picture emerged from official statements, local news reports and comments of Indian officials and foreign diplomats as Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, three deputy ministers and 30 Generals left for Moscow.

An Indian Government statement said that Marshal Ustinov had assured India about the Soviet desire to continue and strengthen cooperation "in the field of supply of defence equipment by the Soviet Union and in the development of defence production industry in India."

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Leading article, page 11
Export contracts, page 13

Afghanistan two years later



French at the front: Dr Jean-Louis Hermann, a French doctor working for Aide Medicale Internationale, examining a guerrilla fighter in the Loghar region of Afghanistan.

Soviet 'atrocities' condemned by doctors

From Edward Girardet, Paris

For the past year and a half, three French medical organizations have been discreetly operating clandestine relief missions in the mountainous valleys of resistance-held Afghanistan. In recent weeks, they have become increasingly outspoken against what they consider to be atrocities against the civilian population by the Soviet occupation forces.

At present, the Paris-based Madesins sans Frontières (MSF), Aide Medicale Internationale (AMI) and Medecins du Monde (MDM), whose medical teams are active in war zones elsewhere in the world including Cambodia, Kurdistan and El Salvador, are the only Western humanitarian groups to work inside Afghanistan on a permanent basis.

About 25 volunteer men and women, mainly French but with a sprinkling of Belgians and Swiss, are now running clinics, dispensaries and itinerant aid programmes in eight different provinces at any one time for periods of up to six months.

Originally, the French organizations had hoped that by keeping their activities low key and consisting primarily of providing basic health care in the insurgent-controlled areas — the Russians would leave them alone. But the presence of foreign doctors among the Afghans is known to the Kabul regime. Not only do they serve as morale boosters for the resistance but also as constant witnesses to conditions inside the country.

Three French-run hospitals in the Panjshir valley north of Kabul, the Haxarajat and Paktya provinces were suddenly attacked by Soviet MIGs and helicopters over a two-day period last November. Medical staff and patients narrowly escaped.

Regarding this as a deliberate intimidation tactic, the doctors of MSF and AMI decided to publicly upbraid the Russians by explaining their position to the media. They said that they were also deeply concerned by an upsurge in recent months of communist attacks against towns and villages intended to demoralize the local population and deny support to the guerrillas.

The French doctors have not come across any direct evidence of chemical warfare by the Russians but have heard numerous reports from Afghans that point to its use. Some victims, they said, bore traces such as blackened skin, blisters and other symptoms that seemed to suggest chemical attacks.

In one case, the doctors examined a male victim with body burns which they said could have come from napalm or a similar chemical.

"The Russians have been conducting a reign of terror," said Dr Claude Malhuret, executive director of MSF. "We feel it is now up to world public opinion to pressure the Russians into stopping such atrocities."

Western military analysts have also recently drawn attention to what they feel to be a more brutal attempt by the Russians to crush resistance.

Returning French teams in some cases have been able to provide first-hand evidence of communist bombardments and military incursions.

One AMI team, which returned earlier this month after spending the winter in the Panjshir valley, north of Kabul, said that they had seen 13 aerial attacks since December. French doctors were also present when an estimated 15,000 Soviet and Afghan troops launched an offensive against the valley in early autumn.

More recently, the team said, they had retreated severely injured Afghans during an 11-day sweep in early February by mainly Soviet troops in Kohistan at the mouth of the Panjshir valley. According to Marie-Paul Solleir, an AMI nurse, local resistance leaders and refugees had told them that more than 1,000 civilians and guerrillas had been killed, including at least 400 Afghans executed by the Russians. She said that according to the report they had recovered most of them were machine-gunned by they also took 15 white-bearded old men from a village called Bulareh, doused them with petrol and burned them.

With most Afghan doctors having fled the country or living in the communist-occupied towns, perhaps as many as eight million Afghans in the resistance-held regions are forced to rely on this small, scattered handful of foreign doctors for medical care.

Relying primarily on public donations for support, the organizations are trying to send more missions to Afghanistan. At the moment there are no British doctors working inside Afghanistan but the French have been keen to combine efforts with other countries.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Tremors in Japan and Italy

An earthquake in Japan has injured at least 80 people and in southern Italy thousands panicked after strong tremors struck the region.

Six of the Japanese casualties were seriously hurt when a severe earthquake shook Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido.

The tremor, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, disrupted rail services for three hours.

In southern Italy the strong tremors sent thousands of people fleeing panic-stricken from the streets throughout the region. The area was devastated by earthquakes in 1980.

Kirilenko beats Kremlinologists

Moscow — Mr Andrei Kirilenko, a member of the Soviet Politburo, was named among Kremlin officials who signed an obituary for a wartime hero, thereby ending speculation in the West that he may have been dropped from the party leadership.

Mr Kirilenko has appeared in public only once in the past six weeks, and has been conspicuously absent from important state occasions. Some Soviet sources say that the 75-year-old politician, who was long considered a likely successor to Mr Leonid Brezhnev as party leader, has been unwell for the past few weeks.

Military crash victims found

Wander Lake, Illinois — search crews, crossing snowy fields on foot and horseback have recovered the bodies of all 27 people killed when a United States military jet exploded during a thunderstorm on Friday night.

Those killed were the four crew and all 23 air force reserve passengers.

Mugabe's wife leaves hospital

Salisbury — Mrs Sally Mugabe, wife of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, who returned home after spending more than two months in a London Hospital being treated for a kidney condition.

Mrs Mugabe was met at the Salisbury International Airport by her husband and members of the family. Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said she had recovered sufficiently to make the return journey.

Disease slows Danish exports

Copenhagen — The United States joined Japan, Norway, Sweden and Finland in banning all fresh and frozen meat imports from Denmark after a single case of foot and mouth disease reported on the Danish island of Funen (Christopher Follett writes). About 17 per cent of Denmark's total meat exports — largely pork — are affected.

There were no difficulties over meat exports to EEC countries, in particular Britain, Denmark's biggest customer.

Khomeini takes a 10-day rest

Tehran — Ayatollah Khomeini has announced that he is to take a 10-day rest from all official duties, Iran state radio reported.

The ayatollah, who is 62 and has a heart condition, tried to take a break last month. He returned to public life after 10 days when there was speculation in the West that he might be seriously ill.

Bandaranaike party rift healed

Colombo — With the prospect of general elections or a presidential election this year, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her son, Mr Anura Bandaranaike, resolved their differences and Mr Bandaranaike said: "Henceforth the Sri Lanka Freedom Party will be one and indivisible under my leadership."

Liberia's security chief dismissed

Monrovia — Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, the Liberian head of state, has dismissed the director of the Special Security Service and a senior government accountant for the alleged embezzlement of public funds. The Liberian leader, who is the army commander, will supervise security services.

Western pressure failed to shift Russia

By Our Foreign Staff

The West must never allow the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan to be forgotten, Lord Carrington said yesterday.

After the Soviet invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the world had gradually come to accept the situation in these countries as normal, he told a radio interviewer. But with Afghanistan, the world must continually bear in mind that the situation was unacceptable and do what it could to turn it round.

During the interview on the BBC radio programme *The World This Weekend*, Lord Carrington conceded that Western diplomatic pressure on the Soviet Union in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had not had the desired effect of forcing a withdrawal of its armed forces. Some 90,000 Soviet troops remained in the country.

But he was confident that the sharp reaction in the United Nations, where 116 countries had condemned the Soviet intervention, had acted as a brake on the Soviet Union in Poland. The Western proposal to ask for a Soviet withdrawal and designate Afghanistan as neutral territory remained on the table, he said.

He said he hoped that a combination of continuing diplomatic pressures on the Soviet Union and the unflagging guerrilla war in Afghanistan would eventually force Moscow to change its mind.

He pointed out that the Afghan insurgents were not asking to receive arms supplies although he declined to say which countries were providing them.

In Brussels, the need for political support for the people of Afghanistan was emphasized by Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, in a statement to mark the first "Afghanistan Day." He said that all countries who subscribe to the principles of freedom and self-determination for the Afghan people should use their influence to end the Soviet interference in the country.

Afghanistan Day, an idea suggested by the European Parliament, won support from President Reagan earlier this month.

In Delhi, about 500 Afghan refugees held a two-hour demonstration outside the Soviet Embassy. Some refugees later joined an anti-Soviet rally organized by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. A declaration by the organization to mark Afghanistan Day regretted that the international community was a "silent spectator" of events in Afghanistan.

In neighbouring Pakistan, where 2.6 million Afghan refugees have fled, special radio and television programmes were broadcast and Afghan insurgent groups held rallies denouncing the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

In Moscow, the Soviet press called the West's observance of Afghanistan Day an "infamous spectacle" and accused the United States and Pakistan of doing all they could to prevent a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Soviet reports from Kabul spoke of 100,000 demonstrators taking part in a protest meeting outside the American Embassy and quoted Afghan politicians and clergy condemning Afghanistan Day as outright support for counter-revolution.

According to Tass, President Babrak Karmal told a party conference that Washington expressed "continual concern for the Afghan people but this showed itself in the violation of international law, encouragement of terrorism, interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the attempt to aggravate tension in the region."

But he asserted that in spite of rebel attacks, important social and economic changes had been carried out since the 1978 revolution which brought the Marxists to power.

Khmers slip away as Vietnamese advance

From David Watts Singapore, March 21

The Vietnamese Army has occupied two of the principle nationalist resistance villages in Cambodia, as its dry season offensive approaches a climax.

Fighters of Mr Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KNPLF) have melted away into the jungle in the face of the advancing Vietnamese, who had previously concentrated on the Khmer Rouge in their biggest operation since they entered the country in 1979.

The KNPLF claim that casualties from the villages of Sokh Sann One and Two have been minimal since Vietnamese forces moved into the main concentrations of Mr Sann's followers, centred on four villages, in the early hours of Thursday. Confirmation of the attack and occupation came only at the weekend. The area is closed to foreign journalists, and a spokesman for the KNPLF hinted that even Cambodians have been prevented from going to the area by the Thai military.

The Vietnamese operation has forced about 8,000 Cambodian civilians to flee the two villages. Some 500 are thought to have escaped into Thailand. The KNPLF reported one dead and more than a dozen wounded.

Since the middle of January, the Vietnamese have been staging a large-scale pincer movement, using their 75 and 9 divisions to squeeze Khmer Rouge positions in the region of Phnom Penh. Until the latter half of last week there had been no attacks on KNPLF forces, which are a much less effective military force than the Khmer Rouge.

In contrast to the fighting against the KNPLF, it appears that the fighting against the Khmer Rouge has been costly to both sides. The Vietnamese, struggling against the Khmer Rouge's well-fortified mountain strongholds, have suffered as many as 1,500 dead and wounded, and lost seven tanks, while one Western analyst estimates that the Khmer Rouge have lost 600 dead and wounded.

The KNPLF said they had lost little in the way of equipment in the Vietnamese attack, since they had managed to get most of the weapons and ammunitions out.

Infiltrators blamed for riots in Jakarta

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta, March 21

Admiral Sudomo, the Indonesian head of security, today blamed the pro-Golkar Party for lack of security at a rally on Thursday which erupted into violence and arson leaving at least 60 people injured and scores of cars burning. But he said the general election campaign would continue.

Admiral Sudomo, giving his first briefing to the foreign press since the riots, said that the authorities had discovered that a group of about 100 Muslim Party supporters had infiltrated the rally in Benteng Square, Central Jakarta, carrying stones and wearing Golkar tee-shirts. However, even after interrogation of the 240 arrested, some of them school children, the people who started the riot had not yet been identified.

"Golkar took no security measures at all," Admiral Sudomo said. "The PPP (Muslim Development Party) rally on Monday was peaceful. Thursday's riots were a small wave in a big ocean and what happened in Jakarta was not a reflection of the situation throughout Indonesia."

The situation in the provinces outside Jakarta was generally quiet with a "predictable" number of Golkar Party posters being torn down and mutilated. The campaign would continue and mass rallies would not be banned, he said. "If we did ban them, the opposition would accuse us of using the incident of being non-democratic."

However, future rallies in Jakarta would be held in a sports stadium — not in public squares — and it was possible that the Government would consider the advisability of mass rallies during future general election campaigns.

He continued to deny reports of deaths during the rioting, claiming that such reports were "rumours spread for political purposes."

Admiral Sudomo said the infiltrators were from Jakarta, not outside the city, that they were Muslim Party supporters but not members of the Muslim Party which last year carried Jakarta in the elections. The intent he said was to "destabilize the Government".

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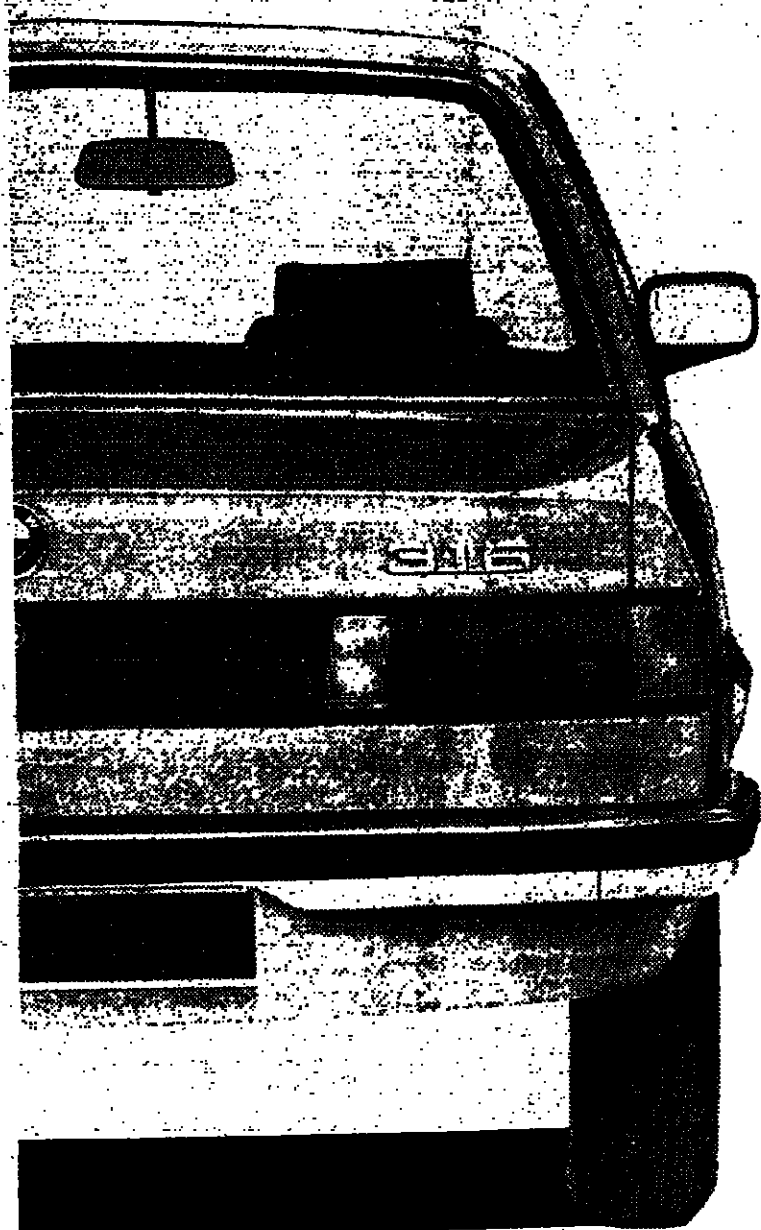
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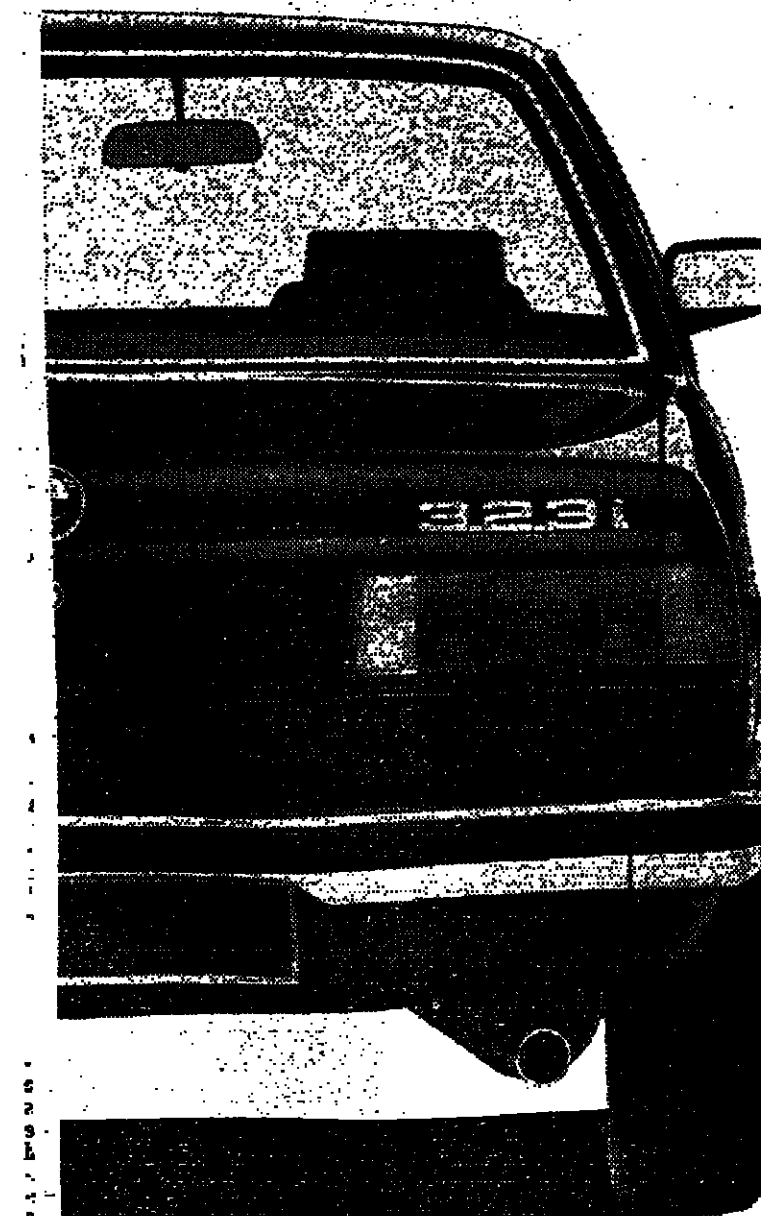
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MR PRIOR'S THROW

Politics for Mr Prior is the art of the impossible, in his Ulster period anyway. For eight years the politicians of the province have demonstrated by word and deed that they cannot meet across the loyalty gap to engage in or sustain institutions of devolved government. All, except for the integrationist school in the Unionist Party, want powers to be restored to the province, but all want the restoration on their own terms and all would prefer not to have it at all than to have it otherwise.

From that experience Mr Charles Haughey among others draws the conclusion that the province is not a "viable" political entity, and that it can be rendered viable only if it is reconstituted on a pan-Irish basis. Successive secretaries of state for Northern Ireland, who actually bear responsibility for the government of the province and the avoidance of civil war, have drawn from the same experience the different conclusion that, undaunted by their predecessors' failures, they must try again.

And so Mr Prior is found six months into his job poised to lay on the table, ingeniously presented and vainly disguised, the very dish that has been so frequently refused. The reason for this perseverance is multiple. It includes the following judgments: that the province is administratively (as distinct from politically) ripe for devolution because of its habits, situation and peculiarities; that Englishmen, however well-intentioned, are not

qualified to govern the place in detail; that the politicians there must be given something constructive to do if their influence is to be other than malign; that the events of the past fifteen years (not to say 400 years) dictate that if there are to be devolved institutions they must be such as to allow republican representatives to participate in the exercise of power; that it is needful, for both home and foreign consumption, to be seen to be doing something other than standing still.

The essence of Mr Prior's concoction is that there should first be elected a provincial assembly with consultative and coordinating functions. Executive or legislative powers could later be conferred piecemeal when triggered by the combination of a formula and a judgment: the formula being of a weighted majority in the assembly, the judgment being that of the Secretary of State that the precondition of cross-community endorsement is satisfied.

The present state of play is that the small non-confessional Alliance Party is all in favour of what Mr Prior is trying to do; the SDLP, the main vehicle for constitutional republicanism, is dismissive of stage two and dissatisfied with the paucity of signposts pointing south, but it would probably enter the elections though it has not committed itself to do so; Mr Paisley's unionists are keen to get elected but denounce stage two; Mr Molyneux's unionists have just

echoed that denunciation but would not boycott an election. The reception is discouraging. Both Mr Roy Mason and Mr Humphrey Atkins, having taken similar soundings, desisted. The openness with which Mr Prior has set about his task (it is a gross absurdity for the Unionists to talk of having been "deceived" and "double-crossed" when the whole thing has been taking place in a goldfish bowl) has given his initiative a political momentum that can hardly now simply be cancelled.

The Cabinet has yet to approve the scheme in its final form and Conservative members of Parliament have to make it possible to proceed, but it would be unwise of either to pull out the plug. Of course, an assembly whose members have nothing much to do except berate the administration and insult each other (which must be accounted the most likely outcome) would tend to political mischief. But it cannot be said with certainty that Mr Prior's rolling devolution with its enticements of office will not roll. The benefits to the province would be considerable if it did. The preliminary processes of establishing an assembly afford time for security forces to tighten their squeeze on the Provisional IRA. Expectations on that front are better kept cold, but there is reason to think that information from within are weakening the IRA's structure and morale. Decisive evidence of that would do more than anything else to improve political prospects in the province.

PRESENTING INDIA TODAY

The story has it that in the nineteenth fifties, when the French began divesting themselves of their Indo-China territories, Mr Nehru refused to recognize Cambodia: it was not truly independent, he claimed, perceiving French apron-strings still dangling behind. But calling in at Phnom Penh after a visit to Peking he was taken for a drive through the Cambodian countryside. During his tour he noted with growing pleasure in the traces of Cambodia's ancient civilization, the unmistakable racial evidence of the Hindu cultural tide that had swept across the region in the distant past. That tide had long ago receded but the traditions were still alive. Thus the history that Mr Nehru knew well enough had been brought to life. Returning to New Delhi he promptly reversed his decision and recognized the government in Phnom Penh.

Such occasions of culture directly influencing politics may be rare, either springing from personal impulse or from a scarcely conscious sentiment that has taken shape over decades. There is no evidence, for example, that the nineteenth century fashion for Japanese art and artifacts made Europeans any better aware of the significant changes then in progress following the Meiji restoration.

The re-evaluation of Chinese art, particularly Chinese painting, sixty years ago in Britain led to no better understanding or even interest in the revolutionary outlook then stirring in China. Which is to say, perhaps, that past and present occupy separate compartments quite apart from the division between politics and culture.

Nevertheless, a sentiment runs more smoothly with culture, once a reputation is acquired. Last year Japan was very much put on the map in Britain by a major art exhibition buttressed by many smaller artistic or informative exhibits. This evening at the Royal Festival Hall two Prime Ministers, Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher, will attend a concert that inaugurates the Festival of India, a considerable enterprise over several months in which art, music and sculpture of all ages, together with some passages of India seen through western eyes in the early days of British rule, will be presented to the British public. Half of that public has no direct memory of the era of British rule and even those who have such memories or were associated with that rule never had such a conspectus of India as the Festival aims to present.

The aftermath of that era through the fifties and sixties gave to an older generation in

both countries the sense of a special relationship. The affairs of the sub-continent were followed closely. The sense of responsibility was such that a problem like Kashmir, for example, was often likely to cause anxiety in Downing Street and even to prompt attempts at mediation. It is doubtful if Kashmir has ever worried Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet. With Britain's membership of the European Community and the dying out of a generation that served in India and relished their memories, the special relationship expired in the seventies, though not without some distress to many Indians during the period when its vigour was ebbing. Now the politics of India are seen from afar.

The more reason for culture to be put on show. The classical past of Asia is divided between China and India and it is a necessary education for all of us. Moreover in the past India was far too often interpreted by a ruling class of British whose contact with India was confined to an English-speaking ruling class in India. The cultural span goes beyond that. Music, dance, art can speak directly to us, whether past or present. The Festival is a presentation of India by Indians and appreciation can be unconstrained by prejudice.

world, man be blown up by Saturday. Poor Harold (Macmillan) he's on the phone to Washington every hour on the hour."

Over a period of a few years I remember Rab's calm being only once visibly disturbed. On arriving in his room I realized that he was uncharacteristically edgy, and that the mandarin's mask had slipped. He was, at the time, being asked to resign as Secretary or, as he sometimes insisted on adding with historic punctuation, "the First Secretary of State". What unimaginable international crisis could explain his discomfiture? "I shall not sleep tonight," he confessed. "By Sunday morning I have to recommend for or against a reprieve for a murderer. I hate it. But how can the judges be asked to apply the law we make if Home Secretaries are to defeat them by advising a royal pardon?" You abolish the death sentence or you use it.

In my years of pupillage Mr Macmillan and Mr Heath were making their first attempt to carry Britain into the EEC. Rab, although chairman of the Cabinet steering committee never concealed his profound scepticism. He was not sceptical like Mr Macmillan, who thought General de Gaulle would in the end say no. He was sceptical out of a sense of Conservative Party history. "It is," he said, "Peel and the Corn Laws all over again, and it can split the Conservative Party". Rab was wrong; it did not.

It may be said of Rab that he could be disloyal to colleagues partly because he could never resist a good encoded joke, but he could never commit any disloyalty to a party that did not hesitate to be disloyal to him. I remember the typically cynical account he gave of Peter Thorneycroft's resignation as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1958: "Peter asked, you know, for cuts of £150 million, and we gave him

all but £50 million. We were astonished when he resigned. After all, he has no money and needs the salary". Three cheers for Peter Thorneycroft.

My pupillage to Rab from which I draw continuing benefits, ended on a Friday night in October 1963. That day the Earl of Home had been to Buckingham Palace to be asked by the Queen if he could form a government, and he said he would try. Everything depended on Rab, who had a heavy cold and was staying at St James's House while his Smith Square house was redecorated. Seven ministers, including some of the strongest in the Cabinet, awaited his decision. He had only to stand firm.

At 10pm, with the first edition of *The Times* rolling, I telephoned St Ermin's and was put through to the Butler suite. Geoffrey Lloyd answered, and said ominously that Rab had been insisting to Edward Boyle that he insisted to refuse to serve under Home. Then Rab came to the telephone, and in a croaky voice answered the question I put to him: "Rab, if you were writing for breakfast time tomorrow what would you say about your intentions?" He replied: "I should write: 'Mr R. A. Butler will arrive at 10 Downing Street tomorrow morning and will tell Lord Home that he is willing to serve'."

Once again Rab had put his party's interests first; and already his ingenious mind was preparing for public consumption that delicious epigram that "I may not have been Pope, but it is something to have been Cardinal". None may doubt that he was one of the biggest and ablest politicians of his generation, and the most formative influence on his party for 20 years, an influence that continues to this day, but we do not deserve him must say he did not deserve the leadership he would not kill to win.

New obstacle to citizenship

From Mrs Ann Dummett

Sir, The Home Office has recently announced that the fees for obtaining citizenship are to be raised on April 1 to £200 for naturalisation and discretionary registration, and to £70 for registration by entitlement. Whether the intention be to raise revenue or to slow down applications the effect will undoubtedly be an arbitrary denial of citizenship to thousands of people who wish to apply and who can satisfy all the conditions as to length of residence, good character and future intentions that the Home Office may require.

A fee of £200 is unquestionably beyond the means of anyone unemployed or on low pay. It is a heavy burden even for someone earning an average wage. The father of family, wishing to apply for citizenship for his wife and child at the same time, would have to pay over £300—nearly £500 if his child had just turned 18. Even the £70 fee is impossible for someone living on social security, and the Supplementary Benefits Commission has made clear that it will not pay citizenship fees.

It should be remembered that thousands of aliens and Commonwealth citizens now living here have spent the greater part of their working lives here, paying taxes and National Insurance and have recently become unemployed in the recession, through no fault of their own.

The £70 fee applies to registration of Commonwealth citizens who have lived here continuously since before 1973, and were legally settled here then, and to wives or former wives, of British men. The Home Secretary cannot refuse an applicant in these categories who satisfies the statutory requirements. But imposing an impossible charge is, in effect, to deny a statutory entitlement. What is at issue is a legal right.

Yours sincerely,
ANN DUMMETT,
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,
44 Theobalds Road, WC1.
March 18.

Stubbs appeal

From Mr Julian Pritchard

Sir, May I be allowed to comment on the article in *The Times* of 17 March, in which the Fitzwilliam Museum for funds to buy a painting by Stubbs as reported by you (March 16)?

Stubbs, like Canaletto, is a painter so admired in this country that one feels bold to question his reputation as an artist, yet I think it should be questioned. Undoubtedly he was a great celebrator of the horse; his anatomical knowledge of it is well known. But a horse does not make a painting and even in a newspaper reproduction this is sufficiently clear. The case of "Cimeter" with John Pratt up on Newmarket Heath has, it surely stands or falls on its composition, and Stubbs's can be very inept; for example, the horse's rump just touches the line of the wall, the underside of his belly just breaks the top of a distant tree, in neither case for any obvious expressive reason. The horse has the effect of a montage introduced, like the building, into a landscape that exists on separate terms. It needs little of an artist's eye to see that the whole picture needs "pulling together". Anatomist that he was, he knew the parts of things more than he knew how to coordinate them.

According to the state of the market, £250,000 may be a fair price; but with these compositional faults, which I think are demonstrable and serious, can the painting properly be described as a "great masterpiece" and is it worth the sum required to place it in what is not an equestrian museum, but a museum of art? A work whose purchase requires a public appeal must be very good indeed. If art museums are to be temples of excellence it is enough that it is a gap in the collection by representing a strand of English painting?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN PRITCHARD,
25 Clarendon Place,
Baldern Street, W1.
March 16.

Legal precedence

From Mr Michael Scott

Sir, I think the Hon. Sir Charles Marnock, KBE, may claim to hold the record for the Commonwealth since he holds office as a Judge of the Fiji Court of Appeal at the age of 90.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SCOTT,
Chief Registrar,
Supreme Court,
Government Buildings,
Suva, Fiji.
March 10.

Welsh television

From Mr R. W. Wordley

Sir, In his excellent article published on February 22, Tim Jones may have been inadvertently misunderstood by his readers on two matters of importance—first, that viewing figures to Sianel Pedwar Cymru (S4C) in Wales should be a yardstick to judge the success of a television service designed to sustain a cultural heritage. Surely such statistics are inappropriate in this context.

The article also stated that "the new channel will cost an estimated £20m to run...." If that low figure was a reality, those of us who fought hard for proper funding for S4C would have failed. In these days of high costs, £20m per year would cover some 10 to 12 hours per week of

Britain's role in European defence

From Sir Edward Peck

Sir, In today's issue (March 19), Sir Bernard Burrows correctly draws attention to the inadequacy of Western European Union (WEU) as an institutional framework for strengthening European defence policy. One of his (and my) former Nato colleagues once wittily described the WEU as "an institution without an effort", whereas the Eurogroup of Nato Europe is incapable of defending itself. Indeed since its inception in 1968, the Eurogroup has done good work in harmonizing European logistics, equipment procurement and similar matters within Nato. French institutional reluctance to participate has been largely overcome, at least in the field of arms procurement, by the formation of the Independent European Programme Group.

None the less the Eurogroup has always been, and any body concerning itself in future with European defence policy must do likewise—that there can be no sense in having two strategies within one alliance and that for the measurable future Europe's security will depend on the United States, in particular the nuclear guarantee. It follows that any independent European defence policy is unrealistic until the day when it can be backed by sufficient military strength to justify abandoning the American commitment.

In your same issue Dr Robert McGeehan makes it plain that European lethargy is likely to make this day a remote one. All the same there is nothing like a hint of American withdrawal from Europe to bring the Europeans together.

A balance can and must be struck between American disillusionment with the supposed failure of the Europeans to help themselves and European frustrations with what some see as the domineering leadership of the United States. The value of the North Atlantic alliance lies not in the easy following leader attitude demanded by the Soviet Union of members of the Warsaw Pact, but in a frank and sometimes fierce exchange of views across the Atlantic. In this exchange Britain has a unique role to play in interpreting the views of America to the United States to the Europeans.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD PECK,
13 Blenheim Drive,
Oxford.
March 19.

From Dr Norman Dombey

Sir, Dr Kreider (March 16) rightly rebukes the Secretary of State for Defence for telling the House of Commons on March 11 that "the non-proliferation treaty never sought to refer to existing nuclear powers", and quotes an earlier statement of his on undertakings of all the parties to the treaty to negotiate in good faith on the "cessation of the

East Timor

From Miss Carmel Budiardjo

Sir, Atauro, the island to which 4,000 Timorese have been banished by Indonesia (*The Times*, March 5), has for some time been described by its exiles as a prison island. It is coming to be known as the "Buru of East Timor", a reference to Buru Island, which was used from 1969-79 as a prison camp and forced labour centre for more than 11,000 untried political prisoners.

It is good to know the International Red Cross have been allowed to visit prisoners on Atauro Island. By the very nature of its work, however, it will keep its findings confidential. On past experience of International Red Cross visits to prisons and camps in Indonesia where political prisoners were held, it is more than likely that pre-visit changes will have occurred to make things appear more acceptable and to remove any prisoners who might attempt to talk freely to the visitors. I know personally of many instances when this happened in Jakarta, Buru and elsewhere.

Following on the Red Cross visit, the Indonesian Government last week allowed Mr Gough Whitlam, former Australian Prime Minister, to visit East Timor so as to make an "independent assessment" of conditions in the country. (*Sunday Morning Herald*, March 3). Mr Whitlam is as far from being independent on East Timor as almost any politician of the world over. His latest act of independence was a tour of African countries last year during which he lobbied African countries to support Indonesia's annexation of East Timor at last year's UN General Assembly.

A real picture of conditions in East Timor, regarding the conditions of the prisoners, the likelihood of famine and more

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Bronze Age finds at Dover

From the Chief Archaeologist of the National Maritime Museum

Sir, Ronald Faux's timely article on the underwater site in Dover harbour (March 15) rightly draws attention to the importance of this Bronze Age excavation. During five seasons' work, 265 bronze objects have been recovered from the site of a possible boat wreck of c.1100 BC. The site is important not only because it contained the largest Middle Bronze Age assemblage known in Britain or in British waters, but also because of the nature of these finds. Most of the bronzes, including tools, weapons and fragments of bracelets, appear to have originated in eastern France and Brittany. Some of the items recovered are from bronze casting and others had been deliberately cut or broken. Such an assemblage strongly suggests a cargo of scrap bronze in transit from France to Britain rather than "loot", as stated in Mr Faux's article.

The aims of the forthcoming season of work, will be financed by the National Maritime Museum. Answers to questions about the type and extent of the site should enable the National Maritime Museum and the British Museum to determine what work should be undertaken in subsequent seasons.

Bronze Age plank boats have been excavated from estuary sites in Humberside at Brigg and North Ferriby, but the environmental conditions there were more favourable than at Dover to the preservation of wooden and other organic remains. Further investigation of the Dover site should provide more information crucial to our understanding of cross-Channel trade in the Bronze Age.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN MCGRAIL,
National Maritime Museum,
SE10.
March 17.

Up front

From Mr Geoffrey Ashton

Sir, Whilst you are right to draw attention to the delightful Playhouse, Charing Cross (Diary, March 12) and the exciting possibility of its return to the live theatre fold, it is perhaps over hasty to describe its curving curtain wall as the fourth oldest theatre facade in London. Apart from the other, albeit less attractive, frontages of the 1870s and 1880s one great and historic theatre has been omitted: the Lyceum.

The Lyceum portico was built by Samuel Beazley in 1834. However, the auditorium behind, and the stage on which Sir Henry Irving performed for thirty years, were replaced in 1904 by Bertie Crew's flamboyant interior. It is a large and practical theatre, the seating capacity could be greater even than Drury Lane, and the riotous decoration and magnificently baroque plasterwork make it one of the most attractive and atmospheric in London.

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Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ASHTON, Librarian,
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2.
March 12.

Countryside cooperation

From Mr Malcolm MacEwen

Sir, Mr Hew Watt (March 17) has been misled by your report of the national parks conference (March 9). The brush between myself and a senior official of the Ministry of Agriculture is evidence not, as your correspondent suggested, of a "gulf" between farmers and conservationists but of mounting criticism of the ministry.

The ministry's policies for hill and upland farming, and in particular its refusal to apply the EEC less favoured area directive to the social and environmental purposes for which it was designed, are injuring not only the landscape and the conservation interest in national parks but also the wellbeing of many hill and upland farmers.

The tragedy of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, in which Mr Watt has so much confidence, is that it missed the chance to give agricultural policies the broad social and environmental objectives they so badly need.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM MACEWEN,
Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning,
University College London,
Wates House,
22 Gordon Street, WC1.
March 20.

Optical illusion

From Mr John Le Carré

Sir, Like others of your readers, apparently, I had always taken it for granted until today that *Private Eye* was edited from a brothel (report, March 18). I am appalled to think what sort of propositions may not have been made to the honest salespersons in the establishment below (described in the report as a sex shop), and I trust that the authorities will take all necessary steps to prevent the corruption of sex shops by an element of society which Sobu has until now successfully kept at arm's length. Yours faithfully,
JOHN LE CARRE,
c/o Farquharson's,
Bell House,
Bell Yard, WC2.
March 18.

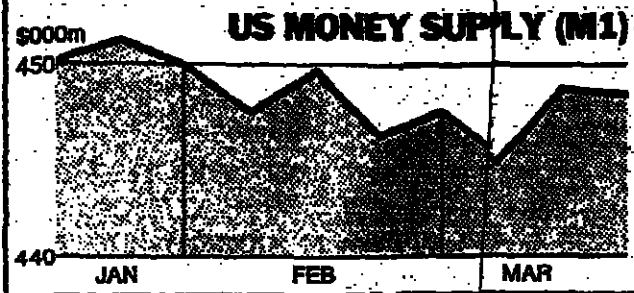
BITUARY
MISS
ARJORIE
OLLARD
influential figure in hockey

Marjorie Ollard, who died yesterday at the age of 81, was a great woman of her generation.

She was the England's best known female hockey player, and a leading figure in the development of the game. She played for England from 1921 to 1932, and was captain of the team. She was also a leading figure in the development of the game in the United States.

She was a former captain of the All England Women's Hockey Association, and a former president of the International Hockey Federation. She was also a leading figure in the development of the game in the United States.

Fed slows M1



United States money supply (M1) fell fractionally last week to \$448,400m (€250,500m) from \$448,800m the previous week. After an alarming rise in growth earlier this year, the Federal Reserve Bank appears to have kept M1 under better control recently, although it is still well above this year's target range of 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 per cent. Analysts fear a rapid, if temporary, increase in M1, in April, accompanied by higher interest rates because of payment of tax rebates.

Pressure on the TSB

Moves are believed to be afoot to bring together the 16 regional Trustee Savings Banks under a single holding company as part of plans to bring the TSBs into the private sector. At present the TSBs comprising 16 unincorporated societies with a central board set up by statute, are controlled by the Treasury and are exempt under the 1979 Banking Act. According to Retail Banker International there is pressure on the TSBs to agree on a new structure prior to legislation needed for a move to full banking status.

Survey of taxation

The effects of the tax and social security systems on the incentive to work and the creation of the so-called poverty trap is to be examined by a sub-committee of the influential all-party Select Committee of MPs on the Treasury and Civil Service. The sub-committee will be headed by Labour MP Mr. Michael Meacher, has appointed as specialist advisers Professor A. B. Atkinson of the London School of Economics, and Mr. John Kay, research director at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Multi-channel cable television is backed by a report out today from the Cabinet Information Technology Advisory Panel. The panel, which is headed by Mr. Michael Meacher, has appointed as specialist advisers Professor A. B. Atkinson of the London School of Economics, and Mr. John Kay, research director at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

THE WEEK AHEAD

All eyes on Eage Star

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.7 rose 5.9
FT 100s 88.45 rose 0.15
FT All Share 323.16 up 3.92
Bargains 18,408

Insurance shares are in the spotlight this week, with final results due on Wednesday from Prudential, and from broker Willis Towner on Thursday.

But most attention is likely to focus on the composite sector where Eage Star may see company Wednesday's final results with comments on the likely intentions of Allianz Versicherung which holds a 28 per cent stake.

The share price has remained buoyant on the assumption that the German group would make a takeover bid when its 12 month takeover code cooling-off period expires in June.

Talks are believed to have taken place between the two sides since the previous bid lapsed, and there were even reports that a suit in the United States was being sought as a preferable alternative.

One other possibility would be to dilute the Allianz stake by issuing some of the 43 million shares authorized but unused, which could cut the Allianz stake to little over 20 per cent.

In the half-year stage profits exceeded market expectations, jumping from £29.5m to £38.5m pre-tax and despite continued weakness of motor premiums and the effects of a severe winter weather on the second half, analysts expect to see taxable profits up from £65.9m to about £73m in the year to December.

Gareth David

DIARY

Today: Gross domestic product (fourth quarter provisional).
Tomorrow: Institute of Directors' annual conference Royal Albert Hall, London. Unemployment figures and unemployment vacancies March provisionals.
Wednesday: Education, Science and Arts Committee on biotechnology. Phillips and Drew international investment conference. Construction new orders (January).

ECONOMIC VIEW

Today sees the publication of the income and expenditure measures of gross domestic product for the first quarter of 1981, with the first indication of what happened to company profits. The output measure of GDP published last month showed a 1/2 per cent rise between the third and fourth quarters.

Unemployment figures for March are released tomorrow. The number of jobless usually shows a

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY—Interim: Old Court Initial Reserve, J. & J. Mills, Reliable Properties, Second City Properties, Trafford Park Estates, Woodrow Wyatt, Arncliffe Holdings, Beaton Clark, Cattle's Holdings, Consultants Computer & Financial, Exeter Building and Construction, Jackson Exploration Inc., PWS, Squire-Horn, Williams Horn, Williams and James (Engineers).

Mrs Gandhi's visit set to boost exports

By Peter Hill and Clive Cookson

Britain will use this week's official visit by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to promote trade that could bring British industry £1,500m worth of business and preserve thousands of jobs.

The two main projects are a £1,000m power station and associated coal mine, and the first overseas order for System X Britain's electronic telephone exchange, worth about £150m.

Negotiations on the power station project, in which Northern Engineering Industries is the lead contractor, have reached an advanced stage. Although it is likely to be some months before a letter of intent is signed, British ministers hope Mrs. Gandhi's visit will provide a new impetus for decisions.

The British Government has been heavily involved in negotiations with NEI. The responsible for most of the power station equipment, apart from the turbine generators, which GEC would supply.

The power station is to be built at Singrauli. The National Coal Board would provide technical assistance for the associated mine at Karanpura.

System X is the telephone switching system developed by British Telecom and its three main suppliers in the past decade, at a cost of about £200m. It is now waiting for its first export order, three years after a joint company, British Telecommunications Systems (BTS), to sell the exchange abroad.

Until recent, BTS concentrated its efforts on adapting the System X specifications for export, and on identifying possible markets, rather than on an all-out sales campaign. However, under pressure from a Government anxious to capitalize on the public money spent developing the exchange, a more aggressive sales drive is now under way.

India is the first big prospect. In January Mr. Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Information Technology, and Sir George Jisherson, chairman of British Telecom, visited India to promote System X.

Under BTS rules, one partner becomes lead contractor for each export market after the joint company has laid the groundwork. It is solely responsible for the final tender and, if successful, for building and installing the exchanges. GEC, which is taking the lead in India, will submit its bid before the end of this month.

The Indian contract, which would be worth £100m to £150m, would initially involve electronic switching equipment for about 200,000 telephone lines, requiring perhaps 20 exchanges. The Government will also expect the successful bidder to set up one or two factories in India to manufacture switching equipment under licence.

India is seen by British ministers as holding huge export potential for United Kingdom companies after £3,000m loan from the International Monetary Fund, a large part of which is earmarked for promoting industrial development.

Several British and European companies are challenging tax laws operated by a number of American states which, they claim, are penalizing their United States operations.

At least 50 British companies, including ICI, Unilever, Cadbury-Schweppes and Reckitt & Colman, together with dozens of French, German, Italian, Dutch and other European multinational groups, are campaigning against the laws. Legal proceedings have been

taken to the United States Supreme Court alleging that some of the tax laws enforced by several states, including Oregon, Illinois and California, infringe the United States constitution.

European employers' organizations, among them the Confederation of British Industry, are spearheading the legal challenge on which the Supreme Court will shortly be asked for a decision. At the centre of this legal wrangle is the issue of unitary taxation, a system

under which a company's tax liability is calculated on a proportion of the world-wide profits of the entire group.

UNICE, the confederation of European employer organizations, has lodged a detailed submission with the Supreme Court. It is being supported strongly by the CBI which has spent five years arguing over the unitary taxation issue with support from the European Community, the United Kingdom Government.

Mr. Ernest Hopwell, chairman of Marwin, said: "We are not prepared to invest in robots. We believe they will be developed by only a few companies and will be made largely for stock."

However, flexible assembly systems, based on computer aided design and possibly incorporating robot and machine centres, are seen as having the potential to achieve big reductions in production costs, while improving quality and productivity.

The Bosch equipment is based on prefabricated modular units, which are, in effect, connected by automatic conveyor belts. The system starts with a one-man work bench and can grow to a fully automated assembly line and is part of the Bosch philosophy that automation will become acceptable to workers only if it is introduced gradually.

Dr. Gerhard Widi, of Bosch, says: "Some 40 per cent of productive wages are spent on assembling. So this sector is particularly interesting for the use of flexible automation, although it is also one of the most difficult challenges."

By order of the board,
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Canada Pacific Enterprises Limited

DIVIDEND NOTICE

The Board of Directors of Canadian Pacific Enterprises Limited, at a meeting held at Montreal, Quebec, on the 5th day of March, 1982, resolved that a quarterly dividend of twenty-eight cents (28c) Canadian per share on the outstanding Common Shares of the Corporation be and the same is hereby declared payable on April 22, 1982 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 17, 1982.

By order of the board,
G.S. MacLean,
Vice-President and Secretary
March 5th, 1982.

Sinclair shares for sale

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Mr. Clive Sinclair plans to sell off part of Sinclair Research, his two-year-old microelectronics company which has an estimated profit of £5m a year.

He has asked Rothschild's merchant bank to arrange a private placing of shares in Sinclair Research, which is still smarting from public criticism of its valuation of Amersham International, may find it even more difficult to judge the right price for Sinclair shares.

"At the moment we don't know how to value the business," a Rothschild executive said. As a first step, the bank has sent in a firm of accountants to report on the finances and future prospects of the company.

Rothschild hopes that the report, with Sinclair Research's results for its second full financial year ending on March 31, will allow a price to be agreed during the summer. The shares could be placed with City institutions in the autumn.

Mr. Sinclair is thinking of selling about 20 per cent of the company. He wants to raise money for his ambitious research and development programme. Sinclair Research runs four laboratories, including one in Exeter working on an electric car to be launched in 1984.

Sinclair Research has not existed long enough to qualify for a quotation on the London stock exchange, and Mr. Sinclair and Rothschild do not like the idea of trading the shares on the unlisted securities market. But, in the longer run, Sinclair is heading toward a full stock market quotation.

The company's extraordinary, though brief, growth record should allow Rothschild to place the shares at a very fancy price. On the other hand, Sinclair's performance so far has been due almost entirely to the ZX81 home computer, which has sold more than 300,000 units during the year since its launch.

A one-product company, dependent on the genius of one man, Mr. Sinclair, may not look so attractive. Therefore Rothschild will evaluate future products, particularly the ZX2 follow-up computer and the £50 flat-screen television which will be launched later this year—very carefully before it puts a value on the company.

Screen gem: the £50 microvision, with FM radio, Clive Sinclair's latest potential money spinner.

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By order of the board,
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Europeans test US tax laws

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

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By order of the board,
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

G.S. MacLean,
Vice-President and Secretary
March 5th, 1982.

Bid for business index 'a scandal'

By Drew Johnston

Trouble is brewing over the destination of more than a million highly-detailed card-indexed business records held by the now-defunct Registry of Business Names closed last month after 66 years as part of the Government's drive to reduce the numbers of Civil Service jobs.

To the fury of the credit agency industry which used the records extensively in assessing credit worthiness, a bid for the records has been made by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry which last month set up an alternative, "free enterprise" business registry.

The LCCI has made it clear that its business search charges will be substantially greater than the search fee of £1 levied by the old registry. A fee of £10 has been mooted.

No decision on the bid has been taken by the Government, but a statement from Dr. Gerard Vaughan, consumer Affairs Minister, is expected shortly.

A Department of Trade spokesman said the LCCI had asked the Department to sell its records for use in its registry service. "We've been considering it for some weeks."

Mr. George Cordoroy, a spokesman for Stationers' Law Society, who described himself as representing around 75 per cent of company registration agents said: "We think it's a scandal."

"We're alarmed that anyone has made a bid, because possession of the index of business names registrations means they can charge high fees for access to information which was compiled for the public's use."

He said that with high fees and the high number of searches—175,000 in 1979—the owner of such information could make large sums of money.

Under the terms of the 1981 Companies Act, businesses must display the owner's name at the place of business, as well as an address, but, according to Mr. Cordoroy, this is not an effective substitute for the old registry.

Several British and European companies are challenging tax laws operated by a number of American states which, they claim, are penalizing their United States operations.

At least 50 British companies, including ICI, Unilever, Cadbury-Schweppes and Reckitt & Colman, together with dozens of French, German, Italian, Dutch and other European multinational groups, are campaigning against the laws. Legal proceedings have been

taken to the United States Supreme Court alleging that some of the tax laws enforced by several states, including Oregon, Illinois and California, infringe the United States constitution.

European employers' organizations, among them the Confederation of British Industry, are spearheading the legal challenge on which the Supreme Court will shortly be asked for a decision. At the centre of this legal wrangle is the issue of unitary taxation, a system

under which a company's tax liability is calculated on a proportion of the world-wide profits of the entire group.

UNICE, the confederation of European employer organizations, has lodged a detailed submission with the Supreme Court. It is being supported strongly by the CBI which has spent five years arguing over the unitary taxation issue with support from the European Community, the United Kingdom Government.

Mr. Ernest Hopwell, chairman of Marwin, said: "We are not prepared to invest in robots. We believe they will be developed by only a few companies and will be made largely for stock."

However, flexible assembly systems, based on computer aided design and possibly incorporating robot and machine centres, are seen as having the potential to achieve big reductions in production costs, while improving quality and productivity.

The Bosch equipment is based on prefabricated modular units, which are, in effect, connected by automatic conveyor belts. The system starts with a one-man work bench and can grow to a fully automated assembly line and is part of the Bosch philosophy that automation will become acceptable to workers only if it is introduced gradually.

Dr. Gerhard Widi, of Bosch, says: "Some 40 per cent of productive wages are spent on assembling. So this sector is particularly interesting for the use of flexible automation, although it is also one of the most difficult challenges."

By order of the board,
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

G.S. MacLean,
Vice-President and Secretary
March 5th, 1982.

Courier services 'a benefit to public'

By Baron Phillips

Britain's rapidly expanding air courier service will tell MPs this week that consumers have benefited greatly from the removal of the Post Office monopoly on postal services.

In the last two years, business for international couriers—which specialize in moving documents and parcels across the world—has doubled. It is now worth about £45m for the 15-strong membership of the Association of International Courier Services.

Members believe turnover could expand by a further 50 per cent within the next year. On Wednesday the Association will give evidence to the Select Committee on Industry and Trade, which is

looking at the effects of last October's British Telecommunications Act. The Act suspended the Post Office monopoly for time sensitive letters, provided private competitors charged a minimum £1.

The service has made great inroads, particularly in the world's financial centres. High interest rates and fluctuating exchange rates have necessitated rapid transfer of documents between banks.

In all cases couriers have expanded on the back of assured delivery times which, the association claims, the Post Office cannot always offer. And since the passing of the Act, the market for this type of delivery service has expanded rapidly.

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BUSINESS NEWS

ITALY
Relief as
fifth oil
chief
is named

The appointment of Signor Enrico Gandolfi as ENI's fifth head in three years has relieved the tension that was paralysing the management of Italy's state-owned oil corporation. But Signor Gandolfi has been put in as special government commissioner only for six months and, unless his term is extended, he will be able to do little more than lay the foundations for recovery.

ENI, according to a member of the government, is losing 5,000m lire (£2m) a day, but the immediate cause for the dismissal of Signor Alberto Grandi, chairman, was political. As a Christian Democrat, he fell victim to the coalition parties' logic whereby the giant corporation IRI should be headed by a Christian Democrat, ENI by a Socialist, and the smaller EFIM by a Social Democrat.

Signor Grandi became involved in public controversy with Signor Gianni De Michelis, the Socialist Minister for state industry, who called on him to resign, and with ENI's Socialist vice-chairman, Signor Leonardo di Donna, who hoped to succeed him. In the end, the Socialists did not get all they wanted.

The case is not closed, however, because the minister intends to reform the whole public sector. The terms have expired of the other two corporations' chairmen, Signor Pietro Sette (Christian Democrat) at IRI and Signor Corrado Fucini (Social Democrat) at EFIM.

Even if they are re-appointed, the chance is offered for a thorough shakeup, and the minister has circulated among the coalition parties a scheme for restructuring the three corporations.

Signor Gandolfi, aged 68, has been with ENI for 26 years, latterly as chairman of the SAIPM subsidiary. He is a non-political figure, under whom SAIPM has regularly reported profits and gained a world reputation in deep sea pipe laying.

At ENI, he faces several pressing problems. The government has to decide whether to approve an agreement concluded by ENI in January to take 180,000 million cubic metres of Soviet gas from the proposed Siberian pipeline.

Mindful of United States pressure, Rome has so far hesitated, but even if American opposition appears to have softened the coalition is divided between the Christian Democrats (in favour) and the Socialists and Social Democrats (against).

Negotiations have to be concluded with Algeria on the price of the methane to come through the Transmed pipeline.

On purely commercial grounds, the Italians are not in a hurry, the distribution network inside Italy is not yet ready. A report to the cabinet says gas supplies from existing domestic and foreign sources are enough to satisfy demand for at least two years.

With Saudi Arabia, ENI is seeking to resume direct purchases of oil from the state company Petromin. The Saudis suspended deliveries two years ago amid allegations of scandal over the destination of commission payments.

John Earle

Base
Lending
Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds.	13 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	13 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000 10 1/2%, £10,000 to £50,000 11 1/2%, £50,000 and over 11 3/4%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212
The Over-the-Counter Market

Capitalisation	Company	Change	Price	Dividend	Yield	P/E	Turnover
1,283	Ass Brit Ind Culs	129	+3	10.0	7.8	—	16.0
4,226	Airsprung Group	73	—	4.7	6.4	11.6	—
1,125	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5
12,159	Bardon Hill	159	—	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8
1,338	CCI, Ind Comp Pref	107	—	15.7	14.7	—	—
4,875	Deborah Services	63	-2	6.0	9.5	3.1	5.9
4,047	Frank Horrell	127	-1	6.4	5.0	11.4	23.5
11,702	Frederick Parker	81	+1	6.4	7.9	4.1	7.9
3,758	George Blair	53	+1	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3
2,615	Ind Prec Castings	109	—	15.7	14.4	—	—
2,454	Jackson Group	97	-1	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
15,734	James Burroughs	114	+1	6.7	7.6	8.3	10.5
2,530	Robert Jenkins	248	-5	31.3	14.6	3.4	8.8
3,180	Scruttons "A"	64	+1	5.3	8.3	9.8	9.1
3,881	Torday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5
2,885	Twinklford Ord	139	—	15.0	19.0	—	—
2,157	Twinklford Hse ULS	79	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6
10,014	Walter Alexander	79	+2	5.4	8.1	—	9.2
5,321	W. S. Y.	—	—	—	—	—	9.8



Gordon Borrie outside his home: "People won't argue — an unfortunate British trait"

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

Looking for a home-front breakthrough

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, has decided that his concern to promote competition and improve the lot of the consumer will be focused this year on the householder.

The main initiative will be to get more done about shortcomings in home improvements work, from plumbing and plastering to roofing and re-pointing.

It should strike a chord with a number of Britain's 11.5 million owner occupiers and 9.5 million renters of property — as it does with Mr Borrie himself. At his part-15th century converted Worcesterhouse farmhouse he has recently had a wall blown down, been troubled with fuel-oil freeze-ups and had to have the roof fixed.

He has decided he must soon do something about the decided lean assumed by a chimney stack that could fall through the roof. At least when a radiator burst, the run of the old timbers directed the water away from the carpets and straight out of a window and into the garden.

"It's nice when you have a bit of that sort of luck, but for some people involved in home improvement, luck needn't strike all that often, judging from the complaints I get," says Mr Borrie.

There are already developments in which Mr Borrie has been involved that are of potential benefit to householders. Legislation affecting estate agents in May introduced a number of protective measures, with house purchasers' deposits having to go into a special account and a house seller having the legal right to know the basis of an agent's terms.

Mandatory scale fees for

estate agents have already been scrapped, but Mr Borrie admits that while there are signs that estate agents are willing to negotiate on fees, particularly for high-priced properties, a lot depends on their customers pressing for the best deal.

"The trouble is that people won't argue — an unfortunate British trait", Mr Borrie says.

He is turning a sharp eye on nearly 60 restrictive agreements between estate agents on a localized basis which deal among other things with valuation scales. Agents involved are being asked to drop them.

The Royal Institute of British Architects has agreed to drop its mandatory scales for fees although it remains to be seen how quickly competition actually breaks in.

"The householder will have to prod, and I intend to urge him or her to do just that", Mr Borrie said.

He judges that competition is less likely to grow among architects than estate agents. Property shops, some with computerized lists, have emerged on the high streets in competition with the traditional estate agent, but Mr Borrie is alarmed that such lower-priced competition could be running into problems.

There have been reports of some local newspapers being reluctant to take advertising from the property shops. The question is how far this might reflect a cosy arrangement between a local newspaper and the established estate agents in the locality.

Home improvements, on which Mr Borrie will produce a discussion paper today, was not an easy area for the Office of Fair Trading to

tackle. In one of those sectors that are hallmarked by fast growth and the hard doorstep sell, Mr Borrie has already had success; what he regards as an effective code of conduct agreed with the Glass and Glazing Federation covering the double-glazing sector.

An indemnity scheme now protects the consumer against financial failure of a contractor, particularly important where long-term guarantees are involved.

Contract terms have been altered to guarantee a cooling-off period for those who sign a deal one night and have second thoughts the next day.

Mr Borrie said: "We would like to extend this sort of voluntary agreement to other parts of the home improvements field." But there is a snag. In glazing the trade association covered 70 per cent of the companies in the business. But much of the rest of the home improvements sector is fragmented, with at least 300 trade bodies involved, many of them localized.

"It might be possible to build up something in some sectors like the plumbers, the building trade employers, the master builders. But it looks as if there is a very big element not all deserving the description of cowboys — who choose not to belong to anything."

That could mean taking legislative action, a far longer process than securing voluntary codes through trade associations, as Mr Borrie readily admits.

A particular worry is where household work is done that carries a guarantee of 15 years or more. This usually occurs with pest treatment as for woodworm,

with cavity insulation, with damp proofing, and with outer wall treatments, including cladding.

But in 1980 20 per cent of all bankruptcies were in the building sector. A Which report showed that in the wood preservation sector, 600 out of 850 companies had ceased trading within two years, while a further 900 had set up in business.

The need for some form of indemnity such as a fund raised by bonding from the trade is clear.

Mr Borrie does have one possible weapon in addition to trying to work through the trade associations. It is precisely the fast-growing sectors in the home improvements field where companies usually arrange credit facilities for their customers.

But to be able to do this they need a credit trader's licence — which is dispensed by Mr Borrie. He can also revoke existing licences.

But he realizes that cleaning up the home improvements area is going to be a crafty, slow and piecemeal effort. Mr Borrie said: "After 12 months we will have done our bit to get people to think more clearly about looking after their own interests better. And I look forward to greater competition in the provision of all kinds of financial and household services to the consumer."

Apart from anything else there is a drag anchor on any efforts made by either Mr Borrie or the trades to improve matters. How many house holders, taking on a craftsman, will agree to pay cash on a "black economy" basis, with no contract or protection, in order to get a job done more cheaply?

Derek Harris

MARSHALL FIELD TAKEOVER

BAT needs to provide logic and lustre

Twice during the 1870's Marshall Field's first large department store was burnt to the ground. First in the great Chicago fire of 1871 and again six years later.

It was rebuilt in magnificent style with two ornate clock towers and architectural splendour within. The splendour of the architecture may not have faded, but the group's profit performance has.

Expansion outside its Chicago base and traditional department store business has spread management too thin, according to some analysts. The figures produce a telling picture. In 1977 net earnings after tax were \$18.1m (£10m). In 1980 they were \$20.7m and in the third quarter of 1981, the latest published — were down from \$6.5m in the comparable three months to \$4.3m. Sales per square foot have slipped and so has the speed with

which merchandise is turned over.

Marshall Field, once the fashion centre of Chicago, has, according to Mr Walter Loeb, retail analyst of Morgan Stanley, "lost a great deal of lustre". He believes that it failed to stay exciting to the buying public, allowing successful groups, including BAT's own Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor and Neiman Marcus, to move in on its home territory.

Also, Mr Loeb believes, it indulged in "illogical expansion plans". Since Mr Angelo Arena became president in 1977, coming from the position of chairman of Neiman Marcus, Marshall Field has tripled the number of its stores. Acquisitions have included the Breuners furniture chain.

Mr Arena successfully defeated a \$42-a-share offer from Carter Hawley Hale on anti-trust grounds shortly after he became president,

much to the annoyance of some shareholders. Analysts agree that the group is not now worth what it was then.

So what is it for BAT? Not all analysts agree that the expansion was ill-conceived. Mr John Lanshulz, an analyst with Messuri, a Chicago broker, said the strategy was right "but it should have been followed 10 to 15 years ago". Mr Arena had simply been making up for past mistakes.

The cardinal sin was to allow its dominant fashion retail position in Chicago to be eaten away. The store with its ornate clock tower is now in the wrong place. Marshall Field made the right decision in opening a new branch at a more competitive site six years ago, but should have done so long before.

That new store, however, is successful and so is a branch in Houston, even if the rationale for having

outlets so far apart is not apparent.

Mr Stuart Robbins, of brokers Paine Webber, said that the Chicago market would be BAT's key to success. It would need to upgrade Field's sales and buying approach to beat the competition and that would involve much time and effort.

But Field has some very valuable properties throughout the country which could generate cash.

BAT would need to concentrate on the fashion designed clothes end of the market which had brought success to Bloomingdale's and Lord Taylor. Department stores could flourish in the United States, he said, but they needed to be exciting.

Analysts believe that the potential is there, but BAT will have its work cut out to achieve it.

Nicholas Hirst

Increasing worries over Japan

The Japanese stock market climbed off the floor towards the end of last week after heavy selling had earlier driven it to an 18 month low.

Hardly the kind of performance one expects from a market that has been the darling of international investors, but indicative perhaps of the increasing worries about where Japan goes from here.

Whether those worries are justified is another matter. Certainly, Japan has not escaped the world recession. Exports fell in the final quarter of 1980 and that, combined with lower levels of stockbuilding, brought the growth in total output grinding to a halt.

The recession is not the only concern. Pressures in western Europe and the United States for more

protectionism against Japanese imports continues to grow — however happy the consumer may be to go on buying Japanese goods.

There are, of course, moves to persuade the Japanese to open up their markets to more European and American goods. But even liberalization of trade in such areas as agricultural products is not going to make a great dent in the trade imbalance. The problem is unlikely to get any easier as the Japanese continue to prove that they can stay ahead of most western countries in terms of efficiency and innovation.

From the overseas investors' viewpoint, it is easy to see the cause of anxiety. Western moves to curb Japanese imports are seen as likely to hit the profitability

of some sectors of Japanese industry and possibly the yen itself — not least if there is less Opec money floating around the world looking for a home.

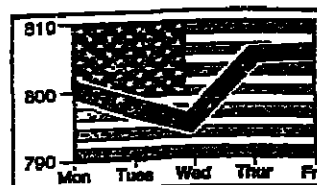
Not all Japanese are quite so worried. Many take heart from the way the economy reacted and adapted to the oil shocks of the seventies far more readily than the western economies. They now see a reasonably stable underlying position.

Moreover, on a short-term view several key economic indicators are pointing towards some revival in the economy. There still seems a reasonable prospect of 3% to 4% per cent growth this year, and any further fall in the oil price would help significantly.

John Whitmore

MARKETSROUND-UP

Wall Street checks downturn



The New York stock market stages its strongest rally in three weeks late last week. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 8.23 point higher for the week at 805.65. Most of that recovery came on Thursday when the average rose by 9.42 points to 805.27.

Technology stocks, which have recently been depressed, led the rebound. Computer, defence, transportation, bank, utility, semiconductor and mining stocks shared in the advance although some rose by only a fraction.

The rally helped to reverse the slump that took the Dow average to a 22-month low of 795.85 only last Wednesday. A week ago it fell 9.99 points in the third largest volume of trading in history, 305.4m shares, two weeks ago, it dropped 17.03 points as 328.8m shares changed hands, the second heaviest trading on record. Last week trading shrank to 243m shares.

Wall Street watches attributed the recovery to the fact that institutions had started to do some buying in order to cover themselves if the market began an extended rise.

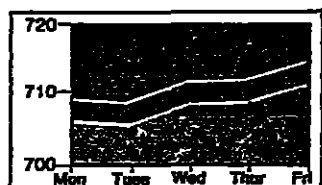
But, opinion is sharply divided as to whether stocks are likely to move up or down in the coming weeks.

Some analysts do not believe that there will be any sustained recovery until late spring or early summer and have been predicting that the Dow average will go as low as 725 or 750 before it ceases to drop.

But at least one investment firm has already forecast a significant upturn in stock prices within 30 days.

FRANKFURT

Springing back



After a week of lacklustre trading, the Frankfurt Stock Exchange sprang to life on Friday pushing the Commerzbank Index to a high for the year of 712.2.

COMMODITIES

Doubts over
new coffee
agreement

Among the brave defenders of commodity agreements on these times none is chrier than the proponents of the coffee price. The coffee price has remained solidly above the floor indicator of 120 cents a pound for most of the present financial year (October 1 to September 30 in coffee's case), and the International Coffee Organization has been able to release more beans on to the market. The ICO claims a success.

But is it successful? Today sees the start of what is likely to be a two-week meeting of the ICO executive committee, during which the elaborate process of drawing up the next coffee pact will unfold. Yet I have the uncomfortable feeling that the agreement's members are being lulled into a sense of false security by the present illusory success of the quota mechanism.

There is a widely held view in the market that coffee is being suspended above the ICO floor price not by the genius of the agreement but by the rather more mundane influence of the Brazilian frost. That frost, it will be remembered, by coarsening of the subject struck last July. About 24 per cent of the country's coffee plants suffered varying degrees of damage, and the 1982-3 Brazilian coffee crop is estimated 16m bags compared with 33 million bags in the current season (a bag is 60 kilograms).

The result is that a probable surplus in the coming season has been transformed into a deficit. Consumption is estimated at 84 million bags while supply will be about 4m bags less. In the present 1981-2 season, by contrast, a record production of 96.9 million bags has led to a surplus of 13.9 million bags.

It was for this reason that last September the International Coffee Agreement countries agreed to limit first quarter export quotas (October to December) to 13 million bags.

At the beginning of October 1981 London robusta coffee for November delivery was £1,076 a tonne, not much above the 120 cents a pound floor. At the end of last week March coffee was more than £1,400 a tonne, despite a fairly sustained liquidation by previous buyers closing their positions.

Michael Prest

CAITAL MARKETS

US tax refunds likely
to fuel money supply

From Maxwell Newton, New York, March 21

The money market will take some cheer from the failure of the money supply (M1) to grow in the week to March 10 — but the by fear is the expected hike in money growth during April, America's month of tax refunds.

Until April is out of the way, the markets will remain in a state of fear and this will depress bond and bill prices.

After April, however there could be a long and strong rally in bonds and interest rates generally. Paul Volcker, Federal Reserve Chairman, has already told President Reagan that rates could drop by up to three percentage points during the summer.

The Fed's seasonal adjustments in the early months of the year are open to doubt. Mr Peter Canelo, the respected capital market analyst at Merrill Lynch, calculates the Fed's adjustments make the money supply growth in the early months of the year look too high and in the later months too low.

After April the downside will tend to depress the money supply figure as published.

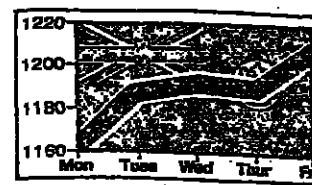
Another bull point for bonds after April will be the decline in credit demand. During a powerful upsurge after 1981, the total banks' commercial and industrial loans and commercial paper outstanding has levelled off since mid-February. The seasonally adjusted total of these two measures of short-term credit rose from \$300,000m (£168,000m) in April 1981 through \$360,000m in October-December, to peak at about \$365,000m in mid-February.

A cessation of growth in this measure has been long awaited as an indicator that the voracious appetite for American corporations for short-term loans had abated. Such an abatement would have been expected to follow the decline of "real" GNP by 4.5 per cent a year in the first quarter of 1982, according to last week's first quarter "flash" GNP report from the Commerce Department.

The failure of outstanding short-term credit even to level out until the last three of a year is attributed to the grave problems American corporations have had in reducing inventories despite sharp cuts in production. Another factor that has added to the fear in the money markets is the evidence the short-term credit boom provided of underlying extreme cash problems among American corporations.

HONGKONG

On the sideline



By passing 1,200 on Friday for the first time in two weeks the market is now 100 points off its recent bottom. The Hang Seng index closed at 1,207, up 10 points on the week, with average daily turnover at HK\$146.6 (£14.2m). Brokers now see a period of consolidation ahead with the market establishing a trading range between 1,250 and 1,100. After showing their support at 1,100, institutions have returned to the sidelines. They are likely to remain there until clearer signals emerge from Wall Street on the "course" of United States interest rates.

Cheung Kong was again one of the stronger performers, closing at 16.10. A spate of results from leading property companies, reflecting the year's high values, could help to lift sentiment in the next few weeks. While the downturn in the property market since last summer has now been substantially discounted, disappointing results at a New Territories land auction on Thursday failed to turn market sentiment.

AUSTRALIA

Oil hopes

One stockbroker this week saw the prospect of falling oil prices and a Labor victory in the Victoria election as possible bull points for shares.

Surprising? Well, it was the view of Phillips and Drew, the London stockbrokers, in its latest world investment review, which offers a useful counter-point to the prevailing pessimism in Australian investment and business circles.

While the prospect of falls in the world oil price have given local investors in energy stocks the jitters, the brokers say that a fall in prices could provide some brighter economic news for the west... at least for 1983 onwards.

A reduction of \$30r so in world oil price — perhaps a 10 per cent cut — could boost the organisation of petroleum exportation countries to lower the official price.

For 1982, the OECD countries' GNP is estimated to rise by a sluggish 4 per cent (against almost 1.5 per cent growth in 1981). This could recover to 3 to 3.5 per cent in 1983 — about the average for the last decade.

Spurred on by an encouraging crop of hakey reports and good news on the oil and gas front, the Melbourne share market took on a much healthier toe this week.

Many analysts expect the index to drop to the 600 level before trading improves substantially. The key question now is whether continued selling on a broad front by overseas institutions can be absorbed by local investors.

Europe prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	Yield	CONVERTIBLE BONDS	Price	Yield
Toronto Dominion Bank	100%	1.54	Alco Standard 9 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	99	1.54	Alco Standard 10 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	99	1.54	Alco Standard 11 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 12 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 13 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 14 1/2%	95%	4.38
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1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 24 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 25 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 26 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 27 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 28 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 29 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 30 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 31 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 32 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 33 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 34 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 35 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 36 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 37 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 38 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 39 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 40 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 41 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 42 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 43 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 44 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 45 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 46 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 47 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 48 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 49 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 50 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 51 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 52 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 53 1/2%	95%	4.38
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1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 67 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 68 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 69 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 70 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 71 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 72 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 73 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 74 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 75 1/2%	95%	4.38
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1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 78 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 79 1/2%	95%	4.38
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1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 87 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 88 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 89 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 90 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 91 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 92 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 93 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 94 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 95 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 96 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 97 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 98 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 99 1/2%	95%	4.38
1985	100	1.05	Alco Standard 100 1/2%	95%	4.38

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTER-CITY
PEOPLECARDIFF
In a class
of his own

"A" for effort for Fanthorpe, L., who besides being headmaster of a Cardiff comprehensive school, Glyn Derw, is also something of a publishing phenomenon.

Fanthorpe, 47, writes not textbooks but science fiction, and in Mike Ashley's forthcoming *Science Fiction Book of Lists* is down as the fastest and most prolific practitioner there is.

He began writing for SF pulp magazines when he was 17, has since published over 175 books. One was written in 11 hours.

Most are paperbacks written for Badger Books for



Fanthorpe the phenomenal which the author retains the right.

With his wife Patricia, he runs a bookshop in Cardiff specializing in SF and fantasy, and he is a director of the city's firm of specialist SF and fantasy publishers Grosvenor Media.

They are publishing an SF trilogy for him, the first volume of which, *Black Lion*, is already out. But Fanthorpe tells me the firm is not handling his latest, a blockbuster non-fiction work, written in collaboration with his wife and called *The Mysterious Treasure of Rennes-le-Chateau*.

This is an answer to Baigent, Lincoln and Leigh's *The Holy Blood & The Holy Grail*, and argues that the mysterious holy relic is in the keeping not of the Priory of Zion but of the Order of the Temple, a group of Hapsburg sympathizers in Austria.

● **Audrey Matheson**, who is the in-house foreign languages tutor for the Worcester engineering group Redman Heenan International, finds her pupils getting younger all the time. She is now teaching not only Redman's old midwives but also from nearby Malvern College, who are coming for conversation classes, under a cooperation between Martin Rogers, the headmaster of Malvern — who wants children to understand business — and Redman group chief executive John O'Connell, who is also a governor of Malvern School.

FALMOUTH
Tall story

The Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race returns to British waters in July, bringing with it for John Hamilton and Christopher Green the prospect of an intriguing international confrontation.

Hamilton is the race director of the Sail Training Association, and Green a director of the race's sponsors, Cutty Sark.

On Sunday, July 25, over 80 sail training vessels are due to set sail from Falmouth to Lisbon — among them the Polish merchant navy's new square-rigger, *Dar Modrzy*, and the USSR's fishery board barque, *Kruszewski*.

When the ships reach Lisbon on August 3, Hamilton tells me, there is a "crew interchange" in which masters establish which of their crews would like to complete the final leg to Vigo and back to Southampton aboard a ship of another nationality.

Would any attempt be made to keep Russians and Poles apart? I asked. "No," says Hamilton. "The whole point of the race is to integrate youngsters of different nations."

● **Ross Davies** looks as if the unemployed are getting on their feet, as the Employment Secretary, Norman Tebbit recommends, not necessarily to look for work. Social authorities in North Wales are pondering reason behind a sudden increase in school registrations of English-speaking children. They suspect English people on the dole are choosing to sit out the recession in beautiful but jobless North Wales rather than in the industrial but equally jobless north-west and north-east of England.

NEW
APPOINTMENTS

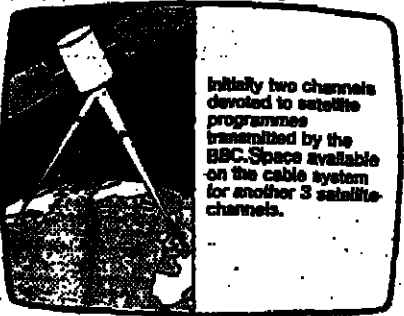
Sir Maurice Hodgson has been appointed a director of British Home Stores with effect from April 1.

Mr George Gomez, Mr Philip Gooding, Mr Leslie Goodman and Mr Donald Rushman have been appointed to the board of Hill Samuel & Co. with effect from April 1.

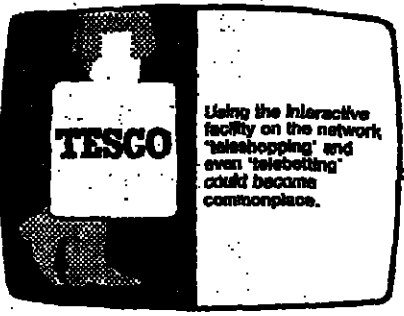
Richard Hornby has been appointed non-executive director of Cadbury Schweppes.

Mr A. J. Brook has been appointed a director of Boddingtons Breweries.

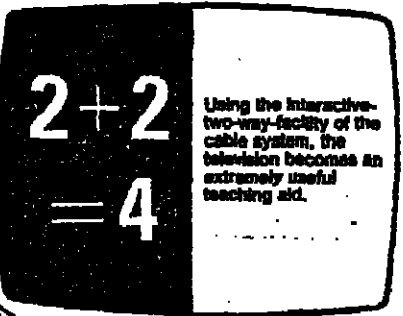
SATELLITE BROADCASTS



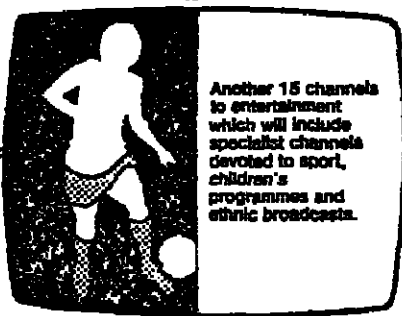
CONSUMER SERVICES



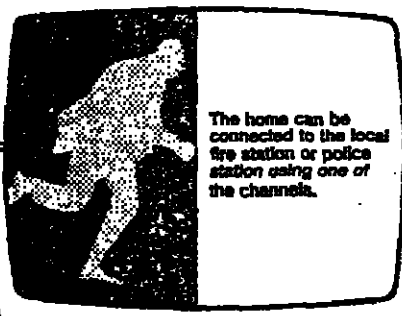
EDUCATION



ENTERTAINMENT



SECURITY



The face of broadcasting could change completely within the next two years if the Government accepts the recommendation of the Cabinet Information Technology Advisory Panel that Britain should have a cable television system of at least 30 channels.

The restrictions on television programming and broadcasting which have managed to contain the number of television channels to a mere three in nearly 50 years of broadcasting would go.

The report, to be published later today, was compiled by experts from industry, the city and the academic world. It suggests 20 entertainment channels and a further 10 for consumer services. In theory they could be operated 24 hours a day.

The first four would be devoted to the normal television broadcasting channels (BBC1 & 2, ITV and Channel 4). In addition there would be one other ITV channel to carry programmes from one ITV region to another, two BBC direct satellite broadcasting channels and three other satellite channels yet to be assigned.

Other channels might be devoted to children's entertainment, arts, education, sport, sub-titled programming for broadcasting foreign language material or to assist those viewers who are hard of hearing, films, local/national political coverage, a television version of yellow pages and special ethnic channels possibly for West Indian or Asian viewers. Separate channels could also be used to secure premises against fire or burglary by wiring the home to the local fire brigade or police station.

What is being recommended is not purely an entertainment system but a consumer communications system which would provide services for the subscriber, like armchair shopping.

"We consider the long term potential of cable systems for providing new sorts of services to be much more important, but have to accept that cable systems will go through an initial phase when their attraction will be based on entertainment considerations," says the report.

An extensive cable television network will be recommended by a Government advisory panel report published today. Bill Johnstone explains the implications.

The cable network
that would link
up with your life

The time scale would depend on government approval and industry's response. Cable — about 23,000 worth — will need to be manufactured and a lot of expensive hardware built. But the first part of the network, the report to the cabinet suggests, could be operational within 18 months.

● The proposed new cable television system would be made up of a number of local networks. The idea of the systems is to encourage as much local input as possible. The entire range of programming on the system could be offered to the subscriber for between £5 and £10 a month.

If a system similar to the types running in north America were adopted a number of channels, probably half of the complete channel range, would be provided for a standard subscription. Additional channels, probably films, and some specialist programming would be paid for either by subscription or by paying separately for each programme viewed.

The mechanics of the system are fairly straightforward. A local network would be set up with cable running into every street in the district. Optical fibre cable would probably be used for this section since it has a capacity to carry large volumes of information. Each subscriber would then be connected by another cable to the main network.

The cabinet advisers estimate that each home in a town with a population of about 100,000 could be wired at a cost of between £200-£300.

The electronics in the home required to receive the signals from the cable would cost in the region of £80.

● The advisory panel sought the views of 21 organizations, among them British Telecom, BICC, the BBC, the Electricity Council, the National Economic Development Office, the Open University, Thomas Cook, Debenhams, Ladbroke's, Logica, Tesco and Thomson Regional Newspapers.

The report says: "Our investigations have revealed considerable interest by private firms (not only from established cable companies) in the possibility of participating in the cable systems, and we have no doubt that funds would be available from commercial sources to finance the installation of cable systems."

The cable systems would generate substantial business for the British electronic and cable manufacturing industries. The total investment could be in the region of £1,000m a year for the next ten years, the cable cost for wiring 50 per cent of the UK is between £2,000-£3,000m.

If the decision was taken to wire about 70 per cent of British homes to the new cable system the cable costs would rise to £5,000m.

The report is intended to encourage British business interests, and the system recommended may exclude the use of American technology which is built to meet different technical standards.

British Telecom is already advanced in fibre optic cabling technology — the use of thin glass fibres the width of a human hair to carry the amount of data contained in 2,000 simultaneous telephone calls. British cable companies like BICC and STC would also be involved.

Film makers and those companies which own the copyright to programming

material — the BBC and Thom-EMI, for example could make a lot of money.

Thom-EMI owns the copyright to a substantial catalogue of films which are already available or will soon be available on video. These same films could be made available on cable. The BBC has a large archive of copyright material suitable for transmission on the cable systems. The extra money generated by such secondary income could lessen the pressure on the corporation to seek licence fee increases.

The cable system recommended would be interactive (two way) allowing the viewer to respond to what is appearing on the screen. This facility would allow retailers to develop "teleshopping". Tesco, which contributed to the cable report, is already running a "teleshopping" experiment in Gateshead. It has set up terminals at remote sites from the Tesco store on which customers can order groceries for delivery.

A similar approach is expected to be taken by travel agents who will allow viewers to book tickets and holidays direct from their armchair. Race meetings and possibly even "teleshopping" might be available on the system, provided by race course owners or bookmakers.

Companies which rely on television advertising may find another vehicle for selling their products. British viewers might be able to watch regularly sponsored programmes, at present not allowed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The report says "Additional income could come from advertising and perhaps sponsorship."

● The most sophisticated system already in operation are those in the United States and in Canada. A number of American cities are now making plans to install systems with as many as 200 channels. Dallas, Atlanta, Houston, San Francisco and New York are among the leaders.

In Boston, New England for a payment of \$2 a month a subscriber to the new cable system (expected to be in operation by 1984) will have the choice of 52 channels and for additional payments a further selection from another 53 channels.

In Britain seven groups are involved in an experiment into cable television. They are: Rediffusion, Visionaire, Cable, Philips, Cable Television, Radio Rentals, Cable Television, Greenwell Cable, and Cablevision, and British Telecom. The experiment which began last year was intended to last two years and was meant to gauge the public's reaction to cable.

Most of these systems carry the three broadcast television channels and about three or four more. These experimental networks have about 110,000 subscribers in all. Some 2.6 million homes already have their television pictures provided by cable reception difficulties.

The advisory panel is confident that enough finance is available. "Even with less than 100 per cent take-up of the system there would appear to be sufficient income from subscribers to give a reasonable return on capital."

The panel would like to see the go-ahead given by the mid-1980s in the regulations established by the beginning of next year. "Such licensing could take place initially under existing legislation and administrative arrangements."

But a regulatory body will be necessary since the legislation which covers this type of broadcasting is contained in three different acts of parliament (The Wireless and Telegraphy Act 1949, the Post Office Act 1969 and the British Telecommunications Act of 1981) and the authority is divided between the Home Office and the Department of Industry.

Business Editor

French expansion
threatens EMS

It may have taken elections to focus the attention of the foreign exchange markets on the deficiencies of the franc. But the actual outcome of Sunday's second round of local government polls is unlikely to have more than a temporary impact on the currency's sagging fortunes.

The fact is that investors, having taken a good look at the French economy, are increasingly alarmed at what they see as a burgeoning state budget deficit which this year may rise to five times its 1980 pre-Mitterrand level; a persistently high inflation rate, presently around 14 per cent, which shows little sign of easing; and a growing balance of trade deficit.

Strains within the European Monetary System were inevitable once France decided to go its own way and pursue an expansionary course in the face of the restrictive policies adopted by other members. Indeed, the French risk precipitating possible collapse of the system.

Though the EMS may not have succeeded in securing greater convergence of members' economies this

per cent is thought necessary by some analysts. But so long as the French are pursuing different policies from everybody else no one believes that the next devaluation, when it comes, will be the end of the story. Unless France changes its policies, or pulls out of the EMS as some have advocated, the EMS has a rocky road ahead.

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Banks

Tax fears

Midland Bank rounded off the dividend season last week with only unchanged profits but this still left aggregate profits for the big four up by 15 per cent to a record £1,679m. This year profits are expected to be higher still as higher stockbrokers W. Greenwell, for instance, forecasting an overall rise to more than £2,000m.

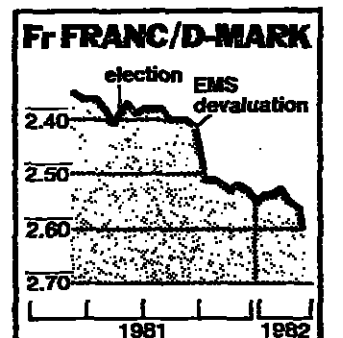
Much of the 1981 rise has come from international operations. Most of the increase at Barclays from £524m to £567m pretax came from Barclays International, National Westminster's international division and also from Lloyds also showed big gains on overseas operations.

In contrast, falling interest rates and rising costs have put pressure on domestic banking. This was only partly offset by the banks widening the spreads between their base and deposit rates.

Lloyds managed to buck the domestic trend by controlling costs and pushing up market share and Midland also showed an odd-man-out employee reductions helped towards the smallest rise in domestic staff costs of all the banks allowing the clearing bank to show an improvement from a poor result the year before. However, Midland's international side was held at unchanged profits because of higher bad debt provisions.

Although the profit outlook is good for 1982, the big uncertainty is just how the market will react to carry out his Budget threat of ensuring a reasonable tax take from the banks. The banks pay very little United Kingdom tax although they argue strongly that industry gets much of the benefit through the cheap leasing finance they provide.

● After what appears to have been a relatively low level of interest in last week's offering of Government index-linked stock, what happens next? The market has driven down the yield on the existing stocks to below 2½ per cent, an stage on the assumption that the opening up of the market to all comers would produce a significant response. But now that response has not materialized, the market will have to stage a new level. Private investors who have not yet tucked a little of the stock away in their portfolios, can probably afford to wait and see what happens over the next few days. How the authorities will play their hand, having said they will not supply the 1982 stock below £97.50, is a different matter. It looks very much as if its next offering will have to be rather more conventional.



Poles still plan on long-term Western help

INTERNATIONAL
OUTLOOK:
POLAND'S DEBT

By Roger Boyes

Warsaw — Poland's corridors of financial power should perhaps be fitted with revolving doors to cope with the Soviet economy and Western goings out. Two weeks ago, the three-member team, from the International Monetary Fund, in this week came Soviet advisers to discuss industrial assistance.

Mr Zbigniew Karz, head of the International Department in the Polish Finance Ministry and one of the few remaining optimists on Poland's debt, says that the IMF team went away broadly satisfied on a number of points. "We could show them that our general aims, outlined to the IMF last year, remain fundamentally the same."

Indeed martial law has changed at least two economic features positively. "Economic reform is going ahead full steam and in fact reform of retail prices has moved much further ahead than anticipated last year."

Decoded, that means martial law enabled the Government to push up prices three and fourfold without the danger of widespread popular opposition. Secondly, "the extraction of raw materials is at a much higher level than last year."

Although Poland is still interested in IMF membership, it does not hold out any great hope of a miracle cure. Rather its strategy is to use Western banks — whose will to see a Polish economic recovery is undeniable — to put pressure on reschedule 1982 government debt.

In previous years, Poland used Western governments such as Bonn to pressure



Martial law and the economy: military authorities monitor production at the Fiat Polski car factory in Warsaw

banks into lending to Warsaw to maintain political stability, now it is doing the reverse to ensure economic stability.

The interest payments for 1981 have now been paid off, and a rescheduling of 1981's bank debt of \$2.4bn (£1.3bn) will be agreed at the beginning of next month. An agreement then has to be reached on rescheduling bank debt just over \$2.4bn for 1982 and the \$2.2bn owed to Western governments.

"We need the West of course," says Mr Karz, and the figure certainly seems to support the contention. But with a crushing inevitability, Warsaw is turning to the Soviet Union as a makeshift economic saviour. This has been loudly fanfared over the past two months, partly as a matter of ideology but partly also as a way of signalling to the United States that economic pressure on Warsaw will simply make a loyal communist ally out of Poland.

Poland, scared that it will be declared in default, knows that the Soviet Union would only be of limited assistance in such a case. "It would be

naive to continue believing in the Soviet umbrella theory," says Mr Karz, but that in the absence of any short-term solution to its industrial problems, deeper Soviet-Polish co-operation is the only way out.

There is thus no radical rejection of the West or indeed of Western imports, only a short-term tactical recognition that his brothers can make fraternal gestures.

It becomes clear that Polish-Soviet co-operation is important to Warsaw because it is the only feature of the economic situation which can be predicted with any certainty. "Look, these are the uncertainties: we don't know what the West will do. What will happen to the refinancing of commercial debt, we don't know what will happen to new commodity credits. There is uncertainty in the economy, we don't know how market conditions, we don't know how the agricultural situation will develop."

By contrast the Soviet Union provides a measure of stability. "There have been no hard currency loans from

the Soviet Union this year, says Mr Karz, despite Western press reports to the contrary. Moscow lent \$465m to Poland last year, and rescheduled \$1bn of an earlier hard currency loan. Poland of course in trade deficit with the Soviet Union — a 1.6bn transferable roubles in 1981 and a similar gap, or "a bit higher," is expected this year, says Mr Karz.

But 70 per cent of Poland's imports from the Soviet Union are raw materials which then help Polish industry to export to hard currency countries. "Under these circumstances, the deficit with the Soviet Union is not so important. I would say it is better, if one has a choice, to get a million tonnes of oil for transferable roubles, than to spend say \$200m buying in Arab oil. That is more interesting for us and for Western countries too."

The message in the Polish Finance Ministry is that there is no short cut — via Moscow — out of Poland's debt problems, but the Soviet Union and other East European countries can and will ensure that industrial production gets back on course.

Although it is difficult to give precise figures, the production slump in the second half of last year there was a deteriorating trend in output that has simply been continuing and indeed showed a slight improvement in February compared to January 1982. The drop has not been caused by martial law, they say.

This however is disingenuous: Polish industry is in serious trouble, hit by the dual evil of raw material shortages due to the absence of Western credits and stagnating labour productivity.

The problem with this assistance from the Soviet Union and other East European countries is that it is helping to distort the Polish economy and above all is undermining the cause of economic decentralisation, still technically viewed as the way out of the crisis. The short term solution to the crisis, Polish planners seem to believe, is to concentrate on priority areas — mainly shipbuilding, engineering, tractor construction, aviation, cars, electronics and steel.

But this means that a small factory which has previously supplied, for example, batteries to the Ursus tractor factory and a dozen other customers, will now have to concentrate solely on Ursus.

The long term effect of this short term thinking is that more tractors will be produced. But that several smaller plants will grind to a standstill and the battery producer itself will lose any semblance of managerial autonomy.

LEGAL NOTICES

RE: ADTECH AIR CONDITIONING LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, by 22nd April, 1982, to enable the Liquidator to prepare a list of the creditors of the Company. If a creditor fails to do so, he will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such date as may be determined by the Liquidator.

RE: EUROTECH (MECHANICAL SERVICES) LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, by 22nd April, 1982, to enable the Liquidator to prepare a list of the creditors of the Company. If a creditor fails to do so, he will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such date as may be determined by the Liquidator.

RE: BRITTON FAIR TRADING LTD (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, by 22nd April, 1982, to enable the Liquidator to prepare a list of the creditors of the Company. If a creditor fails to do so, he will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such date as may be determined by the Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

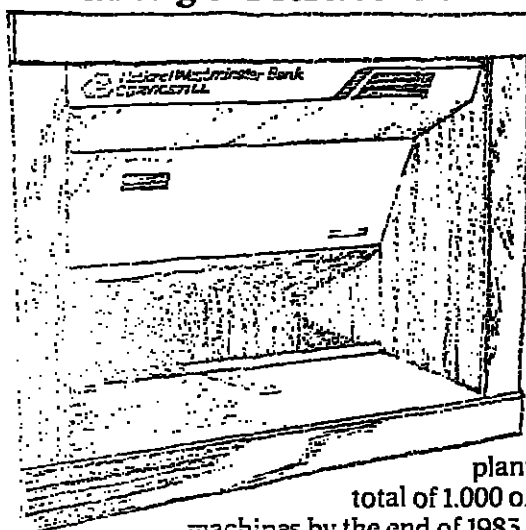
RE: BARNOLD SERVICES LIMITED (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, by 22nd April, 1982, to enable the Liquidator to prepare a list of the creditors of the Company. If a creditor fails to do so, he will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such date as may be determined by the Liquidator.

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RE: TARRANTING SHOES LIMITED (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT 1948. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required to send their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Mr. J. BUCHLER, of 10, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, by 22nd April, 1982, to enable the Liquidator to prepare a list of the creditors of the Company. If a creditor fails to do so, he will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such date as may be determined by the Liquidator.

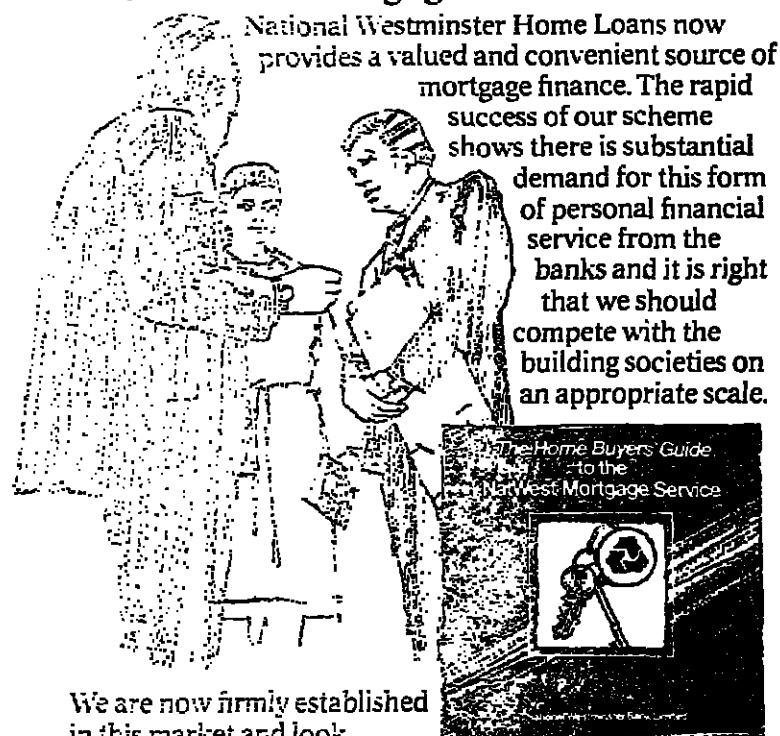
A world's eye view from NatWest

Extending our service to customers



In the increasingly competitive environment in 1982 we will continue to concentrate all our efforts into providing a first-class service to our customers, recognising their special and often individual needs. We now have well over 500 Servicetills operating on a 24-hour basis throughout the U.K., dispensing over £40m each month, already the largest network of its type in Europe. It is planned to have a total of 1,000 of these machines by the end of 1983. Towards the end of this year we plan to introduce a new quick-action customer-operated cash dispensing machine sited inside branches.

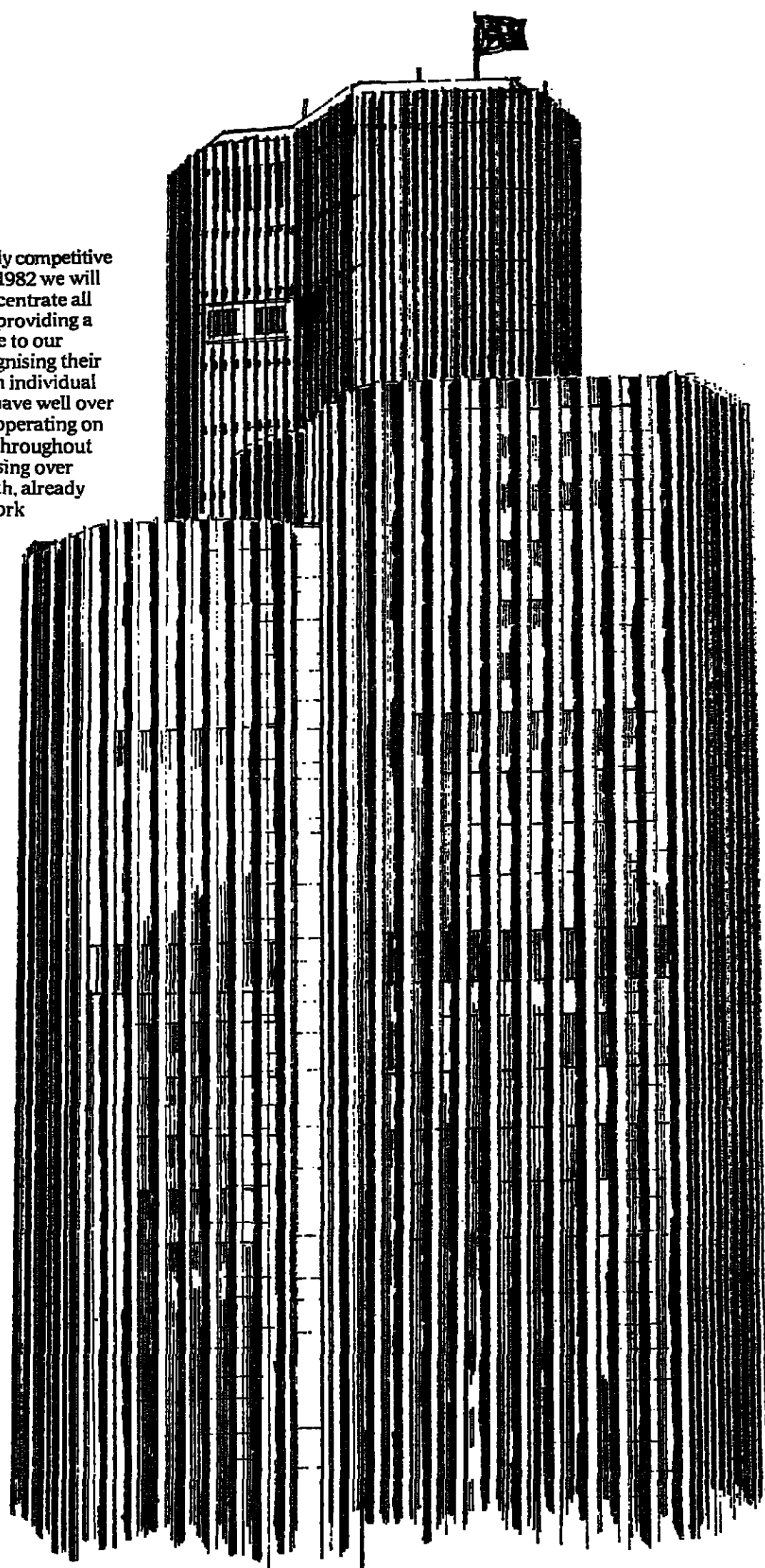
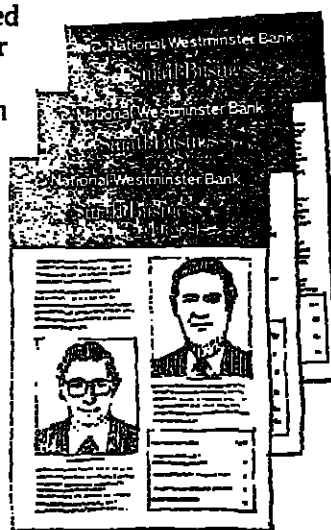
The NatWest Mortgage Service



National Westminster Home Loans now provides a valued and convenient source of mortgage finance. The rapid success of our scheme shows there is substantial demand for this form of personal financial service from the banks and it is right that we should compete with the building societies on an appropriate scale.

NatWest and Small Businesses

We have continued our policy of support for small businesses and have again held down interest rates on Business Development Loans whilst raising the upper limit for this facility to £250,000 to meet the needs of our customers. We completed during 1981, for instance, our 50,000th loan under our Business Development Loan Scheme and an increase of over 40% in lending to a total of £489m indicates the value and flexibility, as well as the competitiveness, of this kind of facility. We are also lending under the Government's Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme and our interest terms are the cheapest of the four major clearing banks.



A Royal Opening for the National Westminster Tower

The cover of our Annual Report shows the Royal Standard flying over the National Westminster Tower on 11 June 1981. This was truly a memorable occasion when we were honoured by a visit by Her Majesty the Queen to declare the Tower formally open.

NatWest Bank Trophy

1981 saw the introduction of the competition for the National Westminster Bank Trophy. After a series of exciting matches, the Trophy was won by Derbyshire - literally on the last ball - when they defeated Northants in a closely contested Final at Lord's.



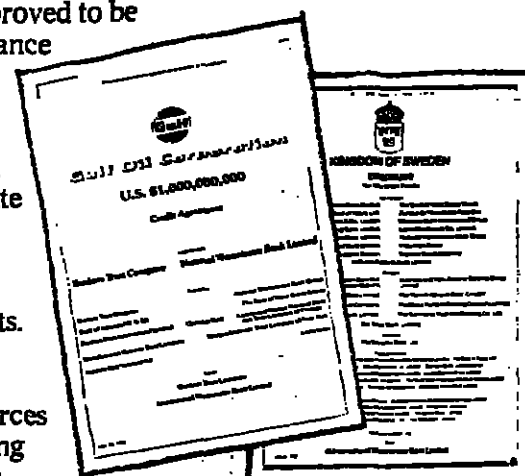
Our international presence

We see the Far East as offering major growth potential and in August an offshore executive office was opened in Singapore with a catchment area extending from China to Australasia and including Burma and the ASEAN countries. Our Canadian subsidiary applied for chartered status, now granted, and under its new name - National Westminster Bank of Canada, with an office opened in Montreal - we look to a material expansion of our business in that country to complement our substantial representation in the United States. In Germany, the activities of International Westminster Bank based in Frankfurt have been merged with our subsidiary Global Bank AG with effect from 4 January 1982 to form a new wholly-owned Group subsidiary called Deutsche Westminster Bank AG.



Corporate Finance

Our experience has proved to be of the utmost importance in meeting the sophisticated requirements of our corporate customers. We continue to operate in a very competitive environment, none more so than in the Eurocurrency markets. The need to make judicious use of the world's natural resources has meant a continuing involvement in major projects, particularly in the energy and related industries.



Youth opportunities with NatWest

Unemployment remains a pressing problem, especially amongst the young, and in recognising this we have increased the number of places made available each year under the Manpower Services Commission, Work Experience Programme. The Bank remains a major recruiter and is thus making a continuous contribution to employment levels among the lower age groups. We have also made grants available to bodies doing research into unemployment and have seconded able and senior managers to the job creation schemes.



Comments from the Chairman - Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton

The improved profit is attributable to increased volumes of business handled by a marginally smaller number of staff using increasingly sophisticated electronic equipment. It is a very satisfactory performance particularly having in mind the 3% reduction in the average base rate in the UK and shows that our profits are little influenced by fortuitous circumstances outside our control.

The world economy during 1981 was very subdued, with low growth and rising unemployment in most countries. Governments in general were unable to adopt expansionary policies, because inflation remained high and payments imbalances were still very large. 1981 will be remembered as a frustrating year for the British economy and it has become apparent that the high inflation of past years is deeply embedded leaving British industry more seriously uncompetitive than remedial measures over the past two years have been able to correct. Government measures which are designed to reduce the cost burden on industry and to enable it to be more competitive are most likely to stimulate economic activity without introducing inflationary pressure. We therefore think it right to support the Government's broad monetary strategy; for us as a bank it has been a matter of judicious

Financial Highlights 1981

Ordinary share capital	£237 million
Reserves	£1,969 million
Money lodged	£39,709 million
Money lent	£31,791 million
Group pre-tax profit	£494 million
Retained profit	£273 million

Copies of the Report and Accounts, which include the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary's Office, National Westminster Bank PLC, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

balance to ensure that at the same time we were not insensitive to the needs of our customers.

Our international banking policy remains appropriate to the difficult and highly competitive world scene, and we continue to seek good opportunities for growth of our existing business and expansion of our representation. We remain confident that our overseas loan portfolio is carefully balanced and distributed, and we shall continue to observe those principles of policy which we believe will contain our risks to acceptable levels. In the United States there is some prospect of recovery in the latter part of 1982 which should help to stimulate the economies of the industrialised countries in Europe.

I should say something by way of explanation of a policy of allowing loans for personal consumption to rise at a time when the demand from manufacturing and exporting customers remains below the level of available bank credit. Most personal loans are structured to be of short duration and repayment terms in our experience are scrupulously observed. We feel satisfied, therefore, in extending to that category of customer which contributes so much to our deposit base, a service which will not conflict with a commitment to provide adequate funds for manufacturing and exporting customers when the economy expands and the need arises.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15. Dealings End, March 26, 5 Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 5.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in Issue for the stock quoted)

Stock				Price				Price				Price				Price			
Company				Company				Company				Company				Company			
Friday week price				Friday week price				Friday week price				Friday week price				Friday week price			
P/E				P/E				P/E				P/E				P/E			
Capitalization				Capitalization				Capitalization				Capitalization				Capitalization			
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Capitalization				Capitalization															

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Commercial Property by Baron Phillips

End of the city megacentre

The age of the large city centre shopping centre is almost over. Recession and changing shopping habits are reflected in the substantial downturn of retailing schemes under construction over the past 12 months.

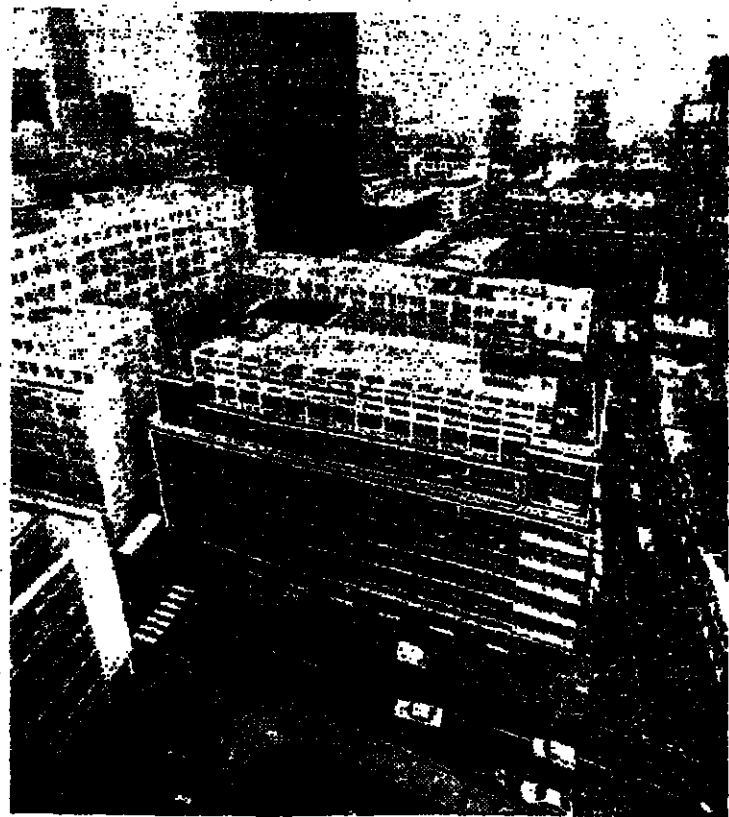
According to agents Hillier Parker the amount of space actually under construction has dropped by a third since March 1981. Although there are plenty of developments on the drawing board they will not be mammoth urban centre schemes or regional centres like Brent Cross.

Willier Parker show that over the past 12 months space being built has fallen to about 6,500,000 sq ft compared with more than nine million sq ft in March 1981. But as Dr Russell Schiller research chief of H.P. points out there was a lot of activity over the last year with a number of major retail openings such as the huge scheme at Peterborough.

Most of the openings which have taken place this year reflected the fruition of plans which were laid during the boom of the late 1970s, says Dr Schiller, although there is likely to be a slow down over the next year or so.

Surprisingly, while there may be fewer openings in the coming year, there is a huge amount of development in the pipeline. According to the research by Dr Schiller and his team there is in the region of 14 million sq ft of shopping space proposed, that is where detailed planning permission has not yet been granted. At the same time the amount of space which has received permission has increased by more than 20 per cent from 10,200,000 sq ft to 12,540,000 sq ft.

One interesting aspect to come out of the latest H.P. research is that for some years the average size of shopping developments has been declining. Since the late 1970s, when the average size of a development was 232,000 sq ft, there has been a steady fall



Following accountants Ernst & Whinney's acquisition of a new headquarters building, they are now seeking to dispose of their head office block at 57, Chancery Lane, close to Finsbury Square on the edge of the City, through agents Gooch & Wagstaff. Covering more than 98,000 sq ft, the building, with vacant possession of almost 78,000 sq ft, will be available from late summer. Ernst & Whinney are moving to Beckett House, Lambeth Palace Road.

until this year. There is now indication that this trend is being reversed. Average sizes for schemes planned for this year are about 151,000 sq ft compared with the present construction size of 138,000 sq ft.

But even so the agents conclude that the day of the large city centre shopping development is probably over. The latest giant was the recently opened Peterborough scheme at about 500,000 sq ft and certainly there are plans to emulate the successful formula of the one million sq ft Brent Cross centre in north London.

either proposed developments of those under construction is heavily geared to London and the South-east. The two areas presently account for more than 60 per cent of all shopping schemes being built and a further 54 per cent of planned schemes. The only other area to show future growth is Scotland where a fifth of planned developments are to be located.

And it is in the Greater London area that a number of major buildings are planned or under construction. At Bexleyheath there is a scheme for more than 400,000 sq ft of shopping, in Croydon Debenhams plan a major development and at Ealing a 200,000 sq ft centre is under way.

What is beginning to emerge, says Dr Schiller, is that while the large developments are planned or under construction, there is plenty of scope for building over the next decade or so. He expects we will witness a surge in the number of district centres and the second and third phase developments added on to existing major urban shopping schemes.

With developers looking outside the traditional urban conurbations the scope of building will be smaller, says Dr Schiller, reckoning the order of development will be in the 150,000 sq ft to 200,000 sq ft range.

Norwich Union again heads the list of developers with most floorspace under construction or planned, followed by Breders, Taylor Woodrow, Town & City and Crutcher. Only three of the leading developers active over the past 12 months is that a combination of the recession and the resultant falling rents has made some of the major retailers wary of tying themselves down to a particular major development.

This is partly due to a changing attitude among retailers themselves towards large schemes. What has become clear over the past 12 months is that a combination of the recession and the resultant falling rents has made some of the major retailers wary of tying themselves down to a particular major development.

In turn this has made developers think several times before embarking on huge city centre developments without the support of a major retail chain. Perhaps not so surprisingly, the geographic concentration of

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